

7
REGULATORS
UNDER £275
RATED AND
REVIEWED

WHERE BIG THINGS
ROAM - FLORIDA'S
PALM BEACH AREA

SPECTACULAR DIVING
OFF OMAN'S REMOTE
DAYMANIYAT ISLANDS

GIBRALTAR:
WE DIVE
'THE ROCK'

SportDiver



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PADI DIVING SOCIETY

PROFESSIONAL SHOOTING

JOHN MCINTYRE
shows what is
possible on
a budget

KOMODO CURRENTS

A wild ride in
INDONESIA

HARDHAT HEROICS

ANDY TORBET DITCHES HIS CCR TO
GET OLD-SCHOOL IN WOKEY HOLE



MARTIN EDGE • BLUE PLANET AQUARIUM • PAUL ROSE

www.sportdiver.co.uk



770958 900134

MAY 2015
£4.20

Capture the spirit of the ocean

The big blue. It teems with the world's most incredible creatures. Offering all who explore it the chance to experience spine-tingling encounters and create memories that will last a lifetime. From close encounters with Manta Rays to witnessing schooling Hammerheads, it is unforgettable moments like these that have inspired our Duo and Elite collections.

Handcrafted in Britain by our highly trained goldsmiths, each collection captures the spirit of the ocean with timeless pieces in silver, gold, platinum and diamonds. Capturing moments from life under the sea. Celebrating moments in life forever.

Keep exploring. Visit reefjewellery.co.uk



**REEF
JEWELRY**
Elite & Duo Collections

Evolution House,
2-6 Easthampstead Road,
Wokingham, RG40 2EG

EDITORIAL

Editor Mark Evans
01440 760918 mark.evans@sportdiver.co.uk
Deputy Editor Will Harrison
0118 989 7266 william.harrison@sportdiver.co.uk
Art Editor Matt Griffiths
matthew.griffiths@sportdiver.co.uk
Reprographics Manager Neil Puttnam
01242 264788 neil.puttnam@archant.co.uk

ADVERTISING

Commercial Brand Manager Ross Arnold
0118 989 7220 ross.arnold@sportdiver.co.uk
Advertising Executive Sam Wren
sam.wren@sportdiver.co.uk

PRODUCTION

Publishing Production Manager Kevin Shelcott
01603 772165 kevin.shelcott@archant.co.uk
Production Team Leader Mikey Godden
01603 772876 michael.godden@archant.co.uk
Creative Designers Andy Crafter, Adam Kimberley

PUBLISHING

MD Archant Specialist and Weddings
Peter Timperley
peter.timperley@archant.co.uk

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Address Sport Diver, Tower House, Lathkill
Street, Sovereign Park, Market Harborough,
LE16 9EF
Email sportdiver@subscription.co.uk
Website www.subscriptionsave.co.uk/sd

PRINTING/DISTRIBUTION

**Published by Archant Community Media
Limited trading as Archant Specialist under
licence from Bonnier Dive Publishing Limited**

**To buy a back issue of Sport
Diver call 0844 848 5232**

Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily the views of the publishers or PADI. Copyright for material published remains with Bonnier Dive Publishing Ltd. Use of material from Sport Diver is strictly prohibited unless permission is given. All advertisements of which the creative content is in whole or in part the work of Bonnier Dive Publishing Ltd remain the copyright of Bonnier Dive Publishing Ltd.



facebook.com/sportdiveruk



Tweet us! @sportdiveruk

www.sportdiver.co.uk

Manta sightings galore. Jealous? Moi?



Scuba diving has to be one of the most-accessible sports out there. Whether you are ten or 80, as long as you meet the fitness requirements, you can become a diver and join our underwater fraternity.

Equally, it doesn't matter what you do for a job, or how much money you make. Have all new shiny kit or worn and battered second-hand clobber; be a high-flying senator or a council worker, it doesn't matter - once we are together on a dive boat or underwater, we are all one big, happy family united by our love of the deep sea realm.

On the flip side, though, diving has to be one activity that can evoke feelings of jealousy unlike any other sporting pastime. You can be celebrating a fabulous dive full of barracuda, jacks and eagle rays, then someone else on the boat says they saw a dolphin, or a whaleshark, and you are left muttering 'jammy so-and-so' under your breath. It's like Top Trumps, but with real critters instead of photo cards.

And so it was with this issue. Deputy editor Will Harrison had never seen a manta ray, and so I was very pleased that he broke this duck on his liveaboard to Komodo. But then I was subbing his article and realised that in one trip he managed to see more mantas than I have seen in over 5,000 dives! Cue lots of Muttley-like grumbings and threats of all his next trips being limited to the North Sea...

NEVER MISS ANOTHER ISSUE - You can now buy individual issues of Sport Diver and have them delivered direct to your door via: www.buyamag.co.uk/sportdiver Use code: SDR21 and get £1 off the June 2015 issue!

Mark Evans, Editor
mark.evans@sportdiver.co.uk

We're Magical.
We're Serene.
We're Egypt.



Egypt - The Diving Destination of the Year 2012, 2013 & 2014



egypt
Live the Magic

Join us by the Red Sea
SHARM EL SHEIKH - HURGADA - MARSA ALAM
www.egypt.travel

egypt
Live the Magic

Contents MAY 2015



COVER PICTURE TV PERSONALITY ANDY TORBET
PHOTOGRAPHER MARTIN HARTLEY

Regulares

8 NEWS

Sir Richard Branson joins the Great Shark Race, an international film festival rolls into town and a team designing a human-powered sub asks for your help.

28 PADI DIVING SOCIETY NEWS

Simon Chance talks about learning to dive in the digital age, the latest batch of MSDs are revealed and divers climb a mountain for charity.

50 LETTERS

The pick of the Sport Diver postbag, including a reader who's had their eyes opened to the world of underwater conservation and another unhappy at a fellow diver's lack of safety.

70 SPORT DIVER AWARDS

In place of the usual Scholar column, we give you all the necessary info on this year's SD Awards.

100 PHOTO WORKSHOP

Martin Edge continues his theme of Advanced Composition, this time looking at the subject of wide angle anticipation.

114 PAUL ROSE

National Geographic Explorer Paul Rose talks about his latest expedition with the Pristine Seas team, including a run-in with some mating tortoises.





Features

20 FLORIDA

Walt Stearns shows that diving in Palm Beach County is all about encounters with the big stuff.

36 AZORES

Diving this Atlantic archipelago is not just about pelagics, reveals Marcelina Jesus.

44 GIBRALTAR

David Jones heads to Gibraltar to see what the British territory can offer the weekend diver.

52 WOOKEY HOLE

Andy Torbet goes hardhat diving in Wookey Hole. Nutter.

62 KOMODO

Will Harrison visits Komodo National Park, Indonesia, and is blown away by the quality of the diving.

72 OMAN

The Daymaniyat Islands prove to be the finest diving Oman has to offer, reveals Adrian Stacey.

94 SHOOTING LIKE A PRO

John McIntyre looks at shooting high-end content on a budget.

Kit & Reviews

80 WHAT'S NEW

A selection of new products, including the Apeks KVR1 drysuit, the Aqualung Aquilon snorkel and the Dryrobe Compression Sack.

82 GEAR GUIDE: BUDGET REGS

The Sport Diver Test Team rates and reviews a selection of regulators priced at less than £275.

92 LONG TERM TEST

A range of gear is tested over a six-month period, including Fourth Element's Arctic Expedition undersuit, Aqualung's Whites Fusion FIT drysuit, Scubapro's X-Black BCD and, new to the stable, Ursuit's Heavy Light Kevlar BDS drysuit.



12 MONTHS FOR **£24.98**, SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
TURN TO PAGE 34

NEWS

Each month, we collate the latest industry news from right here in the UK, as well as all over our water planet. To find out the most up-to-date news and views, check out the website:

www.sportdiver.co.uk

Sir Richard Branson joins the Great Shark Race

Sir Richard Branson has joined the call for individuals and corporations to sponsor shortfin mako sharks that will be tagged and released off the coast of Isla Mujeres, Mexico later this month.

The Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation, along with the Guy Harvey Research Institute at Nova Southeastern University, has created an innovative race that allows businesses and/or individuals to sponsor sharks through the purchase of satellite tags. The tags enable researchers and the public to follow these animals via the internet as they travel in near real-time.

The Great Shark Race consists of two "divisions" – the Shortfin Mako Shark Division and the Oceanic Whitetip (OWT) Shark Division. Participants sponsor satellite tags (\$5,000 each), which are affixed to either a mako shark or an oceanic whitetip shark in the Caribbean. Then the shark in each division that travels the furthest in six months wins.

The winning sponsor will receive an incredible prize including diving and or a fishing expedition at the Guy Harvey Outpost in Islamorada, Florida and Guy Harvey original artwork. Existing sponsors are Virgin Unite, AFTCO, Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation, Florida Sea Grant and Guy Harvey Outpost. Prospective new sponsors can go to www.greatsharkrace.com to register.

These two species of ocean going sharks are the focus of a long-term research by the Guy Harvey Research Institute based at Nova Southeastern University's Oceanographic Center. Both species have been extensively overfished worldwide with the mako listed by the IUCN as vulnerable to extinction and the oceanic whitetip as critically endangered in the Atlantic.

The race aims to shine a spotlight on the incredible distances these sharks swim through the waters of many countries and to draw attention to the effects of overfishing. Without the reliable data fishery managers are hampered in their management and conservation efforts.

Sir Richard Branson is pushing to have all Caribbean nations provide legislated protection for sharks within the next five years as part of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative. So far the Bahamas, Honduras, the BVI and the Cayman Islands have such legislation in place.

The mako shark is a close relative of the white shark and is targeted in commercial long line fisheries for its very tasty flesh. The mako is also a favorite of sport fishermen, as it is known for its incredible speed and ability to jump high out of the water. Few are released because they are good to eat unlike many other shark species.

The sharks are tracked using a SPOT tag attached to their dorsal fins, which transmits a signal to a satellite when the fin cuts above the surface and gives its position very accurately. The limiting factor in these studies is the high cost of the electronic tag and the satellite time. As the study has expanded several corporations are now stepping up their support. Notably Sir Richard Branson and Virgin Unite and AFTCO are supporting shark tracking efforts by the GHRI in the western Caribbean.

The oceanic white tip shark (OWT) is the second species to be featured in the Great Shark Race. This is another species that is known to travel great distances. Some work has already been done in the southern Bahamas by the GHRI and a team from Stonybrook University. This new tagging effort in the central western Caribbean based in Grand Cayman will

greatly add to the data available on this critically endangered species.

The formula being used in Grand Cayman is to synchronize the tagging with existing fishing tournaments. In using tournament participants to catch the OWTs while fishing for marlin, tuna and dolphin a much greater fishing effort over a wide area is used. The anglers catch the OWTs then call in the chase boat and hand over the shark to the waiting tagging team. They are rewarded for this effort with handsome prizes. In the past these sharks would be killed by anglers regarding them as a nuisance.

The GHOF has a number of very important sponsors on board. The Cayman Islands Brewery has sponsored ten SPOT tags through sales of one of their main popular products, White Tip Lager. The Department of Environment has funds allocated for tagging sharks in Cayman's territorial waters and now the Dart Corporation is also sponsoring ten SPOTs. These sharks are to be named after schools in the Cayman Islands with the result that thousands of school children will be able to track their school's shark during the race as months go by. The Cayman Islands Angling Club in hosting the CI International Fishing Tournament April 16-19. This will be the start of the Great Shark Race for the OWT shark. Kirk Freeport is also a main sponsor and the organizers of the Kirk Slam during which event OWT sharks will be tagged. Last year the Kirkconnell brothers hosted the first OWT tagging effort during which time ten OWTs were caught by participants, transferred to tagging teams and released. ■





DIVING
WITH FRIENDS



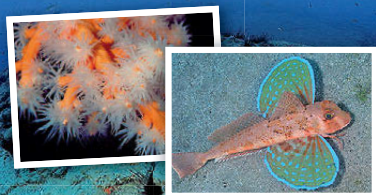
GET YOUR BEST
DIVING OFFERS NOW:
SPECIAL
GROUP OFFERS
AVAILABLE!

BOOKINGS AND INFORMATION
www.euro-divers.com

or e-mail:
office@euro-divers.com

MALDIVES
INDONESIA
EGYPT
THAILAND
SPAIN
OMAN
MAURITIUS
JAPAN
CROATIA

THE ALL YEAR ROUND FAMILY RESORT



DON'T FORGET OUR 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY IS ON THE 9TH MAY!!

“ YOU DON'T KNOW HOW GOOD THE DIVING AND THE HOLIDAY EXPERIENCE ”



- * Family friendly resort with great dive sites and a wonderful array of species
- * Ideal for groups (train your own students) and for divers on their own
- * Also great for non-divers too
- * Warm weather and water conditions ideal for winter diving!
- * Flights from many UK airports with some great winter prices
- * Accommodation near to the dive centre and local amenities

SAFARI DIVING

BSAC

PADI

SSI

Contact Wendy

Phone: (0034) 928 51 19 92

Mobile: (0034) 625 059 713

Email: enquiry@safaridiving.com

Web: www.safaridiving.com



Submarine designers NEED YOU!

A team of eight Masters students from Warwick University have taken on the challenge to design and build a human powered submarine to compete in the 2015 International Submarine Race (ISR).

The ISR will take place in Maryland, USA from 22-26 June, with teams from across Europe, Asia and America entering.

Teams will be judged on the merit of their design, manufacture and lessons learned.

Awards will be presented for outright speed, agility & innovation.

2015 marks the second year that Warwick Sub has entered the race, with last year's team finishing fourth overall and second in the UK, attributable to the robustness of their design.

The students hope to build upon the achievements of last year by improving the hydrodynamic efficiency of the hull, inspired by a unique hydrofoil design enabling the pilot to travel at far greater speeds.

The team is also using the competition as a chance to explore the capabilities of 'green' materials and have secured sponsorship

to manufacture the hull from a flax fibre composite.

The biggest issue the team now face is how to transport the submarine across the Atlantic with minimal funding. Fully assembled the submarine is large, making air freight travel difficult and expensive.

However, as project leader Richard Freeman explains: "We have managed to reduce flight costs by designing a 'fold away' submarine; the chassis can be dismantled into four sections which fit inside each other, packing to a much smaller volume."

"We still have the task of raising enough money to pay for our competition entry fees and for the team's transport to the USA, but we are optimistic given the exciting nature of the project that our new and future sponsors will help us realise our goal."

If you would like to sponsor Warwick Sub, or would like to find out more about their submarine and the competition, visit

www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/eng/meng/submarine/

New dive boat launched in Zakynthos

A new dive boat has been launched in Zakynthos, Greece, with the owners promising visits to virgin sites. Cat Cat, a 12-metre-long and four-metre-wide motor catamaran is the newest addition to the Nero-Sport family. As well as the virgin sites, the boat is also set to regularly visit the wreck of the ferry Zakynthos, the Strofades Isles and the North of Zakynthos. A spokesperson for Nero Sport said: "Even with our new boat we remain true to our philosophy that quality comes before quantity. The number of participants [allowed aboard the Cat Cat] has been limited to 14 persons, to ensure that it does not resemble a mass dive event." For more information, visit www.nero-sport.de



Why should boys have all the fun!



roho - designed, developed and
manufactured in the UK by RobinHood
Watersports; established 1981

It's not just the boys that need a performance dry suit that performs in all conditions.

Roho have designed the X-Flex Tech Ladies Membrane Drysuit specifically manufactured to fit all shapes and sizes of female diver.

A no compromise drysuit offering amazing comfort without sacrificing durability.

- Triple glued and taped to ensure water integrity (no needle holes).
- Cordura textured trilaminate fabric with X-Flex comfort
- Cordura knee protection
- Cordura shoulder re-inforcement ensures better protection
- Zip protection cover with velcro closure
- Neck and wrist areas are latex with outer warmer/protector
- Braces
- Colours - Black, Blue, Red, Pink
- Options at no extra cost - Latex socks, heavy duty Latex seals, Neoprene seals
- **FREE MADE TO MEASURE SERVICE**



www.roho.co.uk

01924 444888

dive@roho.co.uk

Int. OCEAN FILM TOUR back in UK

After a highly successful premiere year in 2014, including a one-off night in London in October, the Int. OCEAN FILM TOUR, in partnership with KEEN (www.keenfootwear.com), returns with VOLUME 2 - five UK dates from 15 to 22 May.

Brought to you by the team behind the European Outdoor Film Tour - Europe's biggest adventure sports film tour - the Int. OCEAN FILM TOUR was launched last year. Touring 70 cities in 10 countries from 21 March, the two-hour programme is a special edit of six of the best water sports and environmental films of the year.

The Int. OCEAN FILM TOUR VOLUME 2 sets sail in Plymouth on 15 May with a special premiere before heading to London on 17 May, then Bristol on 19 May before finishing with two dates in Scotland, in Glasgow and Edinburgh on 21 and 22 May.

Buy tickets (£14) online or in store from local ticket partner, Cotswold Outdoor.

For information about the programme and the films on show, visit www.oceanfilmtour.com/en



Dolphinaria-Free Europe initiative launched

Whale and dolphin experts from across the world have launched a new initiative at the European Parliament to raise awareness about the exploitation of hundreds of captive whales and dolphins in Europe's 33 captive facilities, located in 15 EU countries.

The Dolphinaria-Free Europe coalition, consisting of 19 NGOs from 11 countries, is calling upon European citizens, Euro-Parliamentarians and Member State governments to end captive dolphin shows and interactive sessions which, they assert, exploit the animals and compromise their welfare.

Margaux Dodds, director of Marine Connection, said: "Having worked extensively on the captivity issue worldwide, it is now time to address the issues surrounding captive whales and dolphins in Europe and we are delighted to be part of this important coalition. Dolphins and whales are highly intelligent mammals. To confine them to a small space, remove them of any stimulation which they would easily access in their natural habitat and train them to perform for food reward is quite simply wrong. There is supporting scientific evidence that captivity has both mental and physical effects and that these animals are not suited to a captive environment. It is our hope that one day be able to enjoy a dolphinaria-free Europe just as we currently enjoy a dolphinaria-free UK."

Keith Taylor, a UK Member of the European Parliament, and one of the co-hosts of the launch, added: "I fully support the objectives of the Dolphinaria-Free Europe coalition. To confine creatures such as

whales, dolphins and porpoise which are used to roaming large territories to live in small pools - all in the name of public entertainment - is cruel. Denying these intelligent animals' sufficient space and complexity causes them to develop abnormal behaviour and heightened aggression as, for example, shown in the film 'Blackfish'. This is why I want to see an end to cetacean captivity."

In the EU, 32 of the 33 facilities are regulated by national zoo laws in the State where they are located and by EC Directive 1999/22, relating to the keeping of wild animals in zoos (also known as the Zoos Directive), requiring all dolphinaria to make demonstrable commitments to species conservation, public education and higher standards of animal welfare. A recent report, commissioned by ENDCAP highlighted the fact that 15 (out of 28 States that kept captive dolphins at the time of publication) contravened the terms of EU Zoos Directive and largely failed to meet their legal obligations under national law.

The Dolphinaria-Free Europe coalition will be challenging the captive dolphin industry throughout Europe: investigating malpractice; exposing non-compliance; and seeking the closure of captive facilities that only exploit their animals as objects of entertainment in meaningless shows and interactive activities.

For more information about the initiative, and to get involved, visit www.marineconnection.org

OCEAN GIANTS WITH OUR RESEARCHERS & EXPERTS



BEST OF ABOVE & BELOW WATER TRAVEL
EQUATOR TO THE POLES

AQUA-FIRMA.co.uk
Water Wilderness Wildlife
TEL: 01428 620012
BEST OF ABOVE & BELOW WATER TRAVEL

Committed to Nature

AFRICA - ASIA - ARABIA - ARCTIC - ANTARCTICA - EAST PACIFIC
LATIN AMERICA - CARIBBEAN - INDIAN OCEAN



Lifeboats

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea

HAVE YOU CHECKED
YOUR MOST IMPORTANT
PIECE OF KIT?

 10/10/2014 ✓	 2/1/2015 ✓	 26/11/2014 ✓	 26/11/2014 ✓
 14/3/2015 ✓	 10/10/2014 ✓	 10/10/2014 ✓	
 7/7/2014 ✓	 14/3/2015 ✓	 4/3/2013 ✓	
 14/3/2015 ✓	 26/11/2014 ✓	 14/3/2015 ✓	

!
50% OF OVER-45s HAVE
HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE WHICH CAN
TRIGGER A HEART ATTACK WHEN DIVING

CHECK IF YOU'RE
100% FIT TO DIVE AT
RNLI.ORG/DIVSAFE
OR CONTACT YOUR
LOCAL GP

**RESPECT
THE WATER**




cameldive.com
CAMEL DIVE CLUB & HOTEL
Sharm El Sheikh



**YOUR 360°
RED SEA
EXPERIENCE**



Relax at 4* Camel Hotel



Become part of the Camel Tribe

"Before my stay at Camel I was only a certified diver. Their safety standards and its unique atmosphere turned me into a self-confident diver and a reliable buddy", Josh from London

HOT DEALS

7 nts Camel Hotel B&B with:

- 5 days diving **from € 336**
- PADI Advanced Course **from € 406**

More offers on our website!

FREE NITROX for all bookings
EXTRA 5% off your diving - quote code SD0515 | book before 31 May '15

See www.cameldive.com/special-offers for details. All offers have limited availability. Hotel offer is per person sharing.

info@cameldive.com
www.cameldive.com
facebook.com/cameldive.sharm






World exclusive Greenland dive tour unveiled

Wiltshire-based Arctic Direct has something incredibly exciting planned for 2016 - a world exclusive, six-night excursion to Greenland, offering diving enthusiasts a unique opportunity dive under Greenland's spectacular icebergs.

As the only operator in the world to offer this package, Arctic Direct is continuing its dedication to provide some of the most unique, intriguing and exciting Arctic holidays available anywhere in the world today.

Charlotte Marshall-Reynolds, Arctic Direct managing director, said: "We're just over the moon to be able to offer such an exclusive trip to diving enthusiasts.

"If you're into diving, then this is a unique opportunity to dive under incredible glaciers and experience a whole new underwater world. Quite simply, if you're a diver and you haven't been to Greenland, then this trip needs to go on your bucket list."

The trip itself includes flights from London or Manchester, all accommodation with breakfast, transfers, hikes and trips to abandoned settlements as well as four days of diving in the surreally unspoiled Greenlandic waters with expert divers on hand to teach and guide you.

For more information, visit www.arcticdirect.co.uk

ALL CHANGE: New owners take the reins at DiveLife

DiveLife is changing ownership. The centre was opened nine years ago and the business grew in those first few years to fill a gap in the North West that had been vacant. With the regional growth came that of the internet and the DiveLife name spread far and wide, not just in the UK but through Europe and farther afield. DiveLife's USP of supplying every major manufacturer meant that customers could source all their diving needs through one facility; this meant that customers could genuinely buy the product that was best for them. The experience of the staff has long been held in high esteem and each and every member of staff is not only a diver, but a professional diver and, in many cases, through technical and rebreather as well as Instructor Trainers. The staff have a depth of knowledge which is rare in diving, they not only have an interest in diving but, for most it is their lives.

Previous owner Brett Thorpe said: "I am pleased to announce that all the staff will be remaining with the new owners, John Crawshaw and Anne 'Japan', and that although I will be moving on to new ventures, I will be in the background continuing to support the team through the transition and beyond."

John and Anne are both keen instructors - Anne is a PADI IDC Staff Instructor and John for various agencies through recreational to technical level - and this, along with the club and holidays, will see DiveLife growing from a mainly retail base to fully support all aspects of diver acquisition, training and retention. Growing the training base, club, travel and building a community to complement the already successful retail side will hopefully see DiveLife become even stronger on a local and regional level, while the imminent launch of the new website will mean an ever-expanding national and international presence.

www.divelife.co.uk

MORE TO SEE. MORE TO DO. MORE TO REMEMBER!

MALTA, GOZO AND COMINO

THREE ISLANDS OFFERING GREAT DIVING, JUST 3 HOURS FROM MOST UK AIRPORTS.

AMPLE CHOICE OF SITES FOR BOTH RECREATIONAL AND TECHNICAL DIVERS.



FOR INFORMATION AND RATES ENQUIRE WITH ANY ONE OF THE CENTRES BELOW.

MALTA - DIVE CENTRES

Aquatica Dive Centre	www.scubadivingmalta.com	info@scubadivingmalta.com	+356	79063462
Aquaventure	www.aquaventuremalta.com	info@aquaventuremalta.com	+365	21522141
Buddies Dive Cove	www.buddiesmalta.com	dive@buddiesmalta.com	+356	27576266
Dawn Diving	www.dawndiving.com	info@dawndiving.com	+356	99431703
Dive Med	www.divemed.com	info@divemed.com	+356	21639981
Dive Systems	www.divesystemsmalta.com	info@divesystemsmalta.com	+356	21319123
Diveshack Scuba School	www.divemalta.com	info@divemalta.com	+356	21338558
Divewise	www.divewise.com.mt	info@divewise.com.mt	+356	21356441
Maltaqua	www.maltaqua.com	dive@maltaqua.com	+356	21571111
New Dimension Scuba	www.nds-malta.com	info@nds-malta.com	+356	21340511
Ocean Mysteries Diving	www.oceanmysteriesdiving.com	info@oceanmysteriesdiving.com	+356	21522220
OrangeShark H2O Diving Centres	www.h2odivers.com	info@h2odivers.com	+356	23561950
Seashell Dive Centre	www.seashell-divecove.com	info@seashell-divecove.com	+356	21521062

GOZO - DIVE CENTRES

Atlantis Dive Centre	www.atlantisgozo.com	info@atlantisgozo.com	+356	22190000
Extra Divers Gozo	www.extradivers.info	gozo@extradivers.info	+356	27569007
Gozo Aqua Sports	www.gozoaquasports.com	dive@gozoaquasports.com	+356	21563037
Moby Dives	www.mobydivesgozo.com	info@mobydivesgozo.com	+356	21564429
St. Andrew's Divers Cove	www.gozodive.com	standrew@gozodive.com	+356	21551301
Scuba Kings	www.scuba-kings.com	gozodiveschool@hotmail.com	+44	01212887385
Utina Diving College	www.utina-diving.com	utina@gozomail.com	+356	21550514

SPEED
DEMONSCUBALAB
2013
TESTERS
CHOICENew from
Atomic Aquatics

BladeFin™

POWER. THRUST.
WICKED STYLE.

The devil's in the details. The latest addition to the Atomic fin family features exclusive engineering and materials designed to deliver more power from every kick.

ATOMIC
AQUATICSAtomic Aquatics Europe GmbH
www.atomicaquatics.co.uk

Dive operator offering Maldives discount

Ultimate diving is offering guests a £150 discount on holidays to the Maldives. The discount applies to all itineraries booked for a 2015 departure. All you need to do is quote 'Dive Maldives with Ultimate Diving' when booking. The Maldives is one of the diving world's most popular destinations with more than 1,190 islands, 26 atolls and a fantastic and varied fish and reef life. The rich sea waters that drift in on the many currents feed these reefs and draw in pelagic fish, such as whale sharks and manta rays. For more information, visit www.ultimatediving.co.uk

Galapagos mobula rays image wins photo comp

Scuba Tours Worldwide has announced that diver Dave Martin has won its annual photographic competition. This amazing picture (displayed above) of hundreds of mobula rays was caught on camera by Mr Martin while diving in the Galapagos Islands with Scuba Tours Worldwide in June last year.

Mr Martin said: "They swam past us on a safety stop. I had turned my camera off but hurriedly fired it up again and got one shot. These are the ones that swam to our left and there were as many on the other side!" This year's competition prize is a seven-night liveaboard trip to the Maldives. For more information about Scuba Tours Worldwide, visit www.scubascuba.com/specials/worldwide



Eagle Divers launches new website

Eagle Divers has launched a new website - www.eagle-divers.com.

The new site is the company's second significant online update in as many months

The site has been met with rave reviews from visitors. Visitor comments have so far included: "Looks super cool", "It's really easy to use" and "Found everything I was looking for".

The site focuses on giving divers all the information they need about PADI courses, diving packages, special trips and Red Sea dive sites.

The new website also offers interesting blogs on topics such as dive club trips, conservation efforts and life as a diving instructor in Egypt.

And if you've dived with them before, keep an eye out! You may appear in one of the photos or even have your donated images featured on one of their pages.

To check the website out for yourself, visit www.eagle-divers.com



AGGRESSOR FLEET® & DANCER FLEET®

WHERE DOES
ADVENTURE
MEET
EXCELLENCE?
EVERYWHERE
WHEN YOU
DIVE WITH US!



Since 1984, delivering the "Ultimate in LiveAboards®" has been the mission of Aggressor Fleet and Dancer Fleet staff from the Caymans to Thailand and beyond. Scrumptious chef-prepared meals, deluxe accommodations, breath-taking underwater encounters and around-the-clock professional service awaits you aboard one of our worldwide yachts.



Save 25% During Dive the World Weeks



31
YEARS
1984-2015
Ultimate in LiveAboards®



+1-706-993-2531

info@liveaboardfleet.com

www.aggressor.com



HSE Scuba Diver Courses
PADI Courses - TDI Courses
RIB Trips - Hard boat charters
Nitrox- 300 Bar
Self Service filling panel
Equipment Rental & Repairs
Diving Shop
Launching & Mooring Facilities
Accommodation

Premier Quality Diving



Puffin
Dive
Centre

Port Galloway
Oban - Scotland - PA34 4QH
Telephone: 01831 566068
Freephone: 0800 543 6181
Fax: 01831 566 143
Email: info@puffin.org.uk
Web: www.puffin.org.uk

LONDON DIVING CHAMBER

DIVE DOCTOR: Medical Q&A

Dr Oliver Firth has gained considerable experience in the field of diving and hyperbaric medicine since joining LDC in 2006. He is an Approved Medical Examiner of Divers for the UK HSE, and a medical referee for the UK Sport Diving Medical Committee. He is involved in the management of all types of diving-related illness, including recompression treatment, as well as providing hyperbaric oxygen therapy for non-diving conditions. He holds the post of Honorary Lecturer at University College London and regularly gives talks on all aspects of diving and hyperbaric medicine to doctors, physiology students and local dive clubs. He remains a passionate diver and has participated in various expeditions and conservation projects throughout the globe.

Q: I've been stationed out in Vietnam with work for a year, and while here I've been enjoying all the natural pursuits the country has to offer - amongst them, diving in inland lakes as well as off the coast, caving, long-boating up the river, etc. Recently I had what I thought was just a cold/cough, with the usual symptoms of fever, shivers, muscle pains and a sore throat. It went after four or five days, but someone mentioned a condition called Weil's disease, and that it was common here and I might have picked it up from the water? Is this possible and what should I do to find out if I've got it?

A: Adolf Weil first described 'an acute infectious disease with enlargement of spleen, jaundice and nephritis' in 1886. This bacterial illness, known as leptospirosis, is usually acquired via water contaminated with animal urine coming into contact with eyes or unhealed breaks in the skin. Surfers, rowers, farmers and sewage workers are examples of your at-risk groups. Thankfully it's rare, as it's a pig to diagnose. Symptoms vary from none at all to almost anything, but typically an initial flu-like illness resolves before a second phase of meningitis, liver damage and renal failure kicks in. Diagnosis is via blood tests and cultures, but can be hit and miss unless there is access to a lab with sophisticated equipment. High doses of antibiotics are required to deal with the bacteria, but handily doxycycline is a good prophylactic. As usual, the golden rule is to try to stop yourself getting it in the first place, so avoid any rat-infested swimming pools if you can.

Q: After a particularly stressful day at work I was driving home and felt a bit unusual. I pulled over and noticed my shirt was drenched. Then my chest became uncomfortable... One heart attack later, I was discharged from hospital on a jarful of pills and with

instructions to chill out, diet, exercise and generally remove anything exciting from my life. This was two months ago. There's no way I'm giving up diving, but my learned dive buddy reckons that these 'beta blockers' I've been put on might be harbingers of diving doom. Can you enlighten me on their particular perils, please?

A: Indeed I can. Beta receptors are distributed throughout the body, and among other things control heart rate and the strength of heart muscle contraction. Beta blockers tend to slow the heart down and reduce the force of contraction. Hence they are used to treat high blood pressure and angina, and are often prescribed after heart attacks or heart failure to reduce said organ's workload. They are also popular with those suffering from 'performance anxiety' - musicians, public speakers, stutterers and waning porn stars (note deliberate lost consonant), for example. These drugs could be problematic to a diver, however, for three reasons. Firstly, by blunting the heart's ability to respond to sudden unexpected demands (eg. strong currents). Secondly, we know that simply immersing a human in water causes a large amount of blood to move from the peripheral to the central circulation, and the resulting back pressure on the lungs can cause leakage of fluid into the alveoli (air-sacs), a risk thought to be elevated by beta blockers. And finally, blockage of beta receptors in the lungs may cause constriction of the airways, particularly in susceptible asthmatics. Ideally therefore, divers should avoid these drugs, if there are alternatives; if not, then the lowest effective dose should be used, and thorough testing carried out to ensure the above risks are minimised.

For more Q&As from Dr Oli, check out: www.sportdiver.co.uk/divedoctor



PADI courses & guided dive packages

Number 1 dive centre in Lanzarote! As voted for on Tripadvisor!

Get your best diving offers now! Visit our website!

Contact Us:
(0034) 928516815
www.manta-diving-lanzarote.com
info@manta-diving-lanzarote.com



Sport Diver

JUNE ISSUE
ON SALE
Wednesday
6 May

WINING AND DIVING, SPANISH STYLE

The Frogfish Photography team return with another series of decidedly tasty tours

The wrecks of Coron Bay

Hunting for metal magic in the Philippines

PLUS

- What's your favourite UK dive site?
- Mark Evans tries to log an early season sea dive, but will the weather play ball?
- Daniel Norwood gets friendly with whalesharks in Mexico
- Group Test: Mid-priced regulators get the once-over by members of the Sport Diver test team
- And not forgetting the latest edition of Tech Diver - PADI's Vikki Batten looks at the pros and cons of backmount and sidemount, and Stu Philpott dives with an inspirational tech diving instructor



buyamag.co.uk

Great magazines direct to your door

Pre-order the June issue today and **SAVE £1** off the shop price! Go to www.buyamag.co.uk SportDiver and enter discount code **'SDR21'**

www.sportdiver.co.uk



Red Sea Diving College



LUXURY LIVEABOARD DIVING
ON OUR AWARD WINNING VIP ONE



LEARN TO DIVE WITH OUR
PROFESSIONAL & EXPERIENCED
INSTRUCTOR TEAM

DIVE SOME OF THE BEST CORAL
REEFS IN THE WORLD ONBOARD
OUR FLEET OF DAILY DIVE BOATS



+20 69 3600145

INFO@REDSEACOLLEGE.COM

www.redseacollege.com



Where big things
ROAM

Palm Beach County, Florida might seem an unlikely setting for encounters with massive marine life, but as **WALT STEARNS** showcases, things really are bigger in the States

Photographs by WALT STEARNS





Ellis Emmett
Adventurer / Explorer / Author / TV Personality
New Zealand

A W G C D P tot = p, p, p...p.
V V K T

hung DRY ox™

Shop
our collection
10% off with code
SPORT15

The sea is an inviting blue; the sky clear and sunny. Divers make final adjustments to their kit as the boat slows then stops. Like skydivers readying to exit a plane, we line up in single file at the stern of the boat. "You are about 150 yards up-current of the wrecks," the captain calls from the bridge, then issues the call to action: "Dive, dive, dive." In rapid succession, we giant stride from the stern platform, dump air

from our BCDs, and begin a slow-motion free fall into the depths.

The current propels us towards our target, which is a collection of wrecks - two freighters and a barge - that together are known as the Zion Train/Esso Bonaire Wreck Trek. These intentionally-scuttled vessels lie in 30m of water, six kilometres off the coast of Jupiter, Florida. During the descent, we are greeted by large schools of spadefish and jacks. Underwater visibility is 20-30 metres, which is often the case at this site. The shadowy outline of the first wreck soon comes into view, then moments later, we see them.

Goliaths are the largest species of grouper. Measuring up to two-and-a-half metres long, these barrel-shaped behemoths can weigh in at up to 300kg, making them the largest boney reef fish found in tropical reef environments. Coming face to face with one of these giants will certainly get your attention; descending to discover dozens of these big fish gathered on a single wreck is something you'll never forget. Even to a South Florida native like me, it's an encounter that never gets old.

Once decimated by unrestrained fishing pressure, decades of protection have given a new generation of Goliaths time to grow to maturity, and they are once again becoming familiar sights on the reefs and wrecks along the coast of Palm Beach County, Florida. A number of sites hold resident populations of Goliath grouper, and on any given day, you stand a good chance of seeing five to ten of these big fish hanging around. But on this late-August morning, we are seeing something special. The Zion Train is no longer just home to a few resident fish. Instead, there is what could only be called a herd, with more than 60 fish packed on and around the battered superstructure of the freighter. It is spawning season, a period beginning in early August and running to the first week of October. At this time, large numbers of Goliath grouper gather on a handful of key spots on the Florida coast, where the warm, clear waters of the Gulf Stream current come close to shore.

Based on their size alone, an encounter with a Goliath would seem intimidating. But these big fish are not aggressive, and in fact will almost always yield ground when a diver advances. Knowing this, I settle close to the sea floor and begin a slow, calculated advance towards a group of ten or so Goliaths hanging near the bow of the freighter. As I close the distance to three metres, the fish begin to shift to left and right, keeping me at least a body length away. I know not to make any sudden movements, as this would almost certainly startle them into a hasty retreat. The largest fish in the group stands its ground, emitting loud booming sounds created by pumping water rapidly through its gills. When this territorial display fails to move me, it is the fish that retreats, disappearing into a dark recess within the side of the ship.



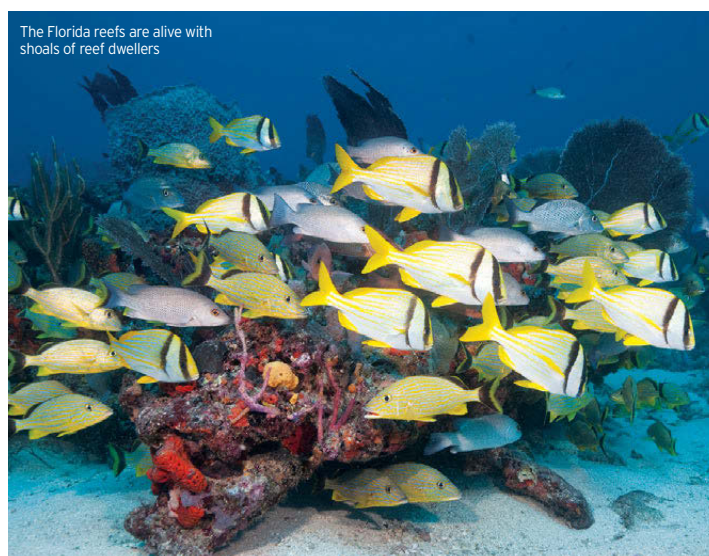
Monster goliath grouper are a wonderful sight



Turtles will happily pose for photographs

There are six known sites along Florida's east coast where these spawning aggregations take place. These include two natural reef formations and four artificial reefs. The only other location in the world where this annual ritual has been documented is in the southern Gulf of Mexico, some 27-40km offshore of Florida's west coast. In addition to the Zion, similar gatherings take place at sites including the MG-111, which is a busted-up barge lying in 19m of water some three-and-a-half kilometres inshore of the Zion, and the Hole-in-the-Wall, a giant swim-though in the side of a ledge in 42m of water, with an opening large enough to park three lorries inside. The fourth location is a reef site called Three Holes, lying in the same depth as the MG-111, but seldom visited as the underwater clarity is not often as good as the other three.

From there, the only two remaining spawning aggregation sites on Florida's East Coast are the Mizpah wreck in 26m of water offshore of West Palm Beach and the Castor Wreck, which lies farther south in 34m of water off Boynton Beach. There is an interesting note to this last wreck;



The Florida reefs are alive with shoals of reef dwellers

"On those occasions when I have used a rebreather to observe these aggregations, I have snuck in close enough where I could have reached out to touch these 'sleeping' sharks"

DID YOU KNOW?

A lemon shark has a magnetic sensor in its nose that allows it to attract prey and to find others to mate with. It depends on this sense of smell because it has poor eyesight. Without that sensor it would have a hard time surviving.



Shark feeds allow you to get close to the action

during the final two weeks of September, in both the 2013 and 2014 seasons, the number of fish gathering on the Castor swelled to an astonishing 120-plus individuals. The majority of these fish were later identified as fish that had pulled up and moved down the coast from both the Jupiter and West Palm Beach sites. By the end of the first week of October, the same fish upped and moved out again, this time back up the coast to their respective homes.

WELCOME TO SHARK ALLEY

A shark sighting makes any dive that much more exciting. In the waters of Palm Beach, divers stand a reasonable chance of seeing at least one species of shark on any given day of the week. Common sightings include nurse, blacktip, Atlantic reef, bull, lemon, greater hammerhead, silky and tiger, as well as a seasonal cast of visitors that includes sandbar, dusky, spinner, and even great whites. Even the behemoth of them all - the whaleshark - is no stranger here.

That said, there are certain times of the year when shark populations can increase dramatically. Just as birds fly south for the winter to escape the cold, so too do several species of shark. These migratory sharks seek out warmer waters and move down the eastern coast of North America. It is in the Palm Beach area where they often find these warmer waters, as this is where the Gulf Stream flows close to shore. Without a doubt, the most-dramatic shark migration, at least in terms of numbers, is a variety of blacktip shark known as spinners. These animals get their name for a tendency to spin as they launch themselves from the water. Like clockwork,

"Seeing one of these 150-200kg ladies in such a peculiar pose is like seeing a failed attempt at parking a truck inside a tool shed"

commencing around the end of December, thousands of these relatively small sharks, with an average length of one-and-a-half metres, sweep south to descend on the coast, swimming in large schools just metres from shore, and in close proximity to unsuspecting human swimmers. Fortunately, the two species coexist well.

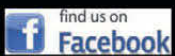
To give an idea of just how many spinners converge on these shores, Associate Professor Stephen Kajiura, who is studying the migration habits of this shark for Florida Atlantic University (FAU), has used aerial photography to determine that there can be as many as 500 sharks per square kilometre along the beaches during the months from January to the end of April. That is a lot sharks when you considered these schools can extend more than seven kilometres long and appear anywhere between Palm Beach County's most-northern point - Jupiter - down to its most-southern point - Boca Raton. But as plentiful as they are, spinners are also the sharks you are least likely you will see while diving or snorkelling, as they are far more scared of you than you are of them.

That is not the case with larger predators such as lemon and bull sharks, two species that are the most likely to make a sudden appearance, as if to say 'hello'. I've encountered both bulls and lemons on dives at all times of the year, and when one of these two-and-a-half metre hunters emerges from the blue, it's certain to raise your pulse rate. Like the spinners, these large sharks don't like the cold, and at the onset of winter, resident populations from the north move south. The Jupiter area sees the greatest number of these transients, and their arrival greatly increases the local shark population.

During the winter months, lemons will sometimes exhibit a unique behavioural trait that creates a stunning spectacle for those lucky enough to witness it. On certain sites where water currents and other conditions are just right, these sharks will come to rest on the sea floor, arranging



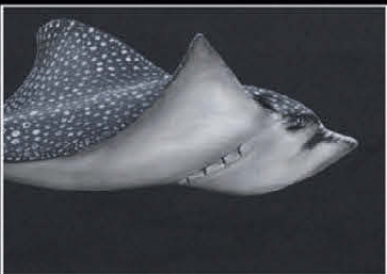
Bring home the magic of the ocean



nickoneillart.co.uk



With marine life paintings by Nick Oneill



themselves in close formations, much like vehicles bunched into a car park. These impressive aggregations are usually comprised of at least 20 to 30 individuals, and may grow to as large as 80 or more. Unfortunately, when they form up in groups like this, they become highly noise sensitive, so anything short of a diver on a rebreather is likely to spook them away. On those occasions when I have used a rebreather to observe these aggregations, I have snuck in close enough where I could have reached out to touch these 'sleeping' sharks.

PALM BEACH SHELL GAMES

As if hordes of outsized grouper and an array of sharks were not enough, the Palm Beach Coast offers yet another type of big animal encounter. This coastline is one of the few places where all five of the Atlantic species of sea turtle converge. These include the loggerhead, hawksbill, green, leatherback and Kemp's Ridley.

At any time of year, seeing less than two full-sized turtles per dive is considered a bad day. And with the arrival of spring, sightings go up at an exponential rate, peaking between the months of May and July. This is because the beaches of the Palm Beach coast are a major nesting ground for three of the five species. The first to come ashore is the hulk of the sea turtle clan: the giant leatherback. Measuring over two-and-a-half metres in length from head to tail, and weighing 450kg or more at full maturity, these ocean nomads begin to make their appearance in March, but don't actually come ashore to lay their eggs until April or early May.

If you encounter a leatherback during a dive, consider yourself lucky, as these animals tend to be far more elusive than other sea turtles. The species you are almost certain to meet will be the loggerhead. These are impressively large creatures themselves, measuring up to one-and-a-half



Various species of shark can be encountered off Florida



Sharks and grouper congregate in caves and overhangs

For more information on diving in Palm Beach County, visit: www.divepbc.com

metres long, and weighing in at better than 200kg.

The second-most-common turtle sightings in the Palm Beach area are hawksbills, which are recognisable by their ornate shell and hawkish, hook-shape snout. An interesting fact is that while they are often seen by divers, they are the only species of sea turtle that does not nest here. A fully mature adult will measure over one metre, weigh around 86kg, and is usually a transient that's just passing through.

Like hawksbills, greens have very ornate shells, and are best identified by their smooth, olive-brown shell, which may be marked with darker streaks and/or spots. They also sport a smooth, bullet-shaped head. The name green sea turtle was actually derived from the greenish colour of its body fat, not its skin or shell. Most greens spotted by divers are juveniles less than three quarters of a metre in length.

The fifth species of turtle that may show up in these waters, the Kemp's Ridley, is not commonly seen, as they are more prevalent in the Gulf of Mexico. Yet divers along the northern end of the Palm Beach coast do run into them from time to time.

So there you have it - Goliath grouper, sharks and sea turtles - all seen year-round, and within easy range of shore. In addition to these signature big animal attractions, the Palm Beach Coast also boasts an impressive collection of wrecks, and holds a wide array of Caribbean/Tropical Atlantic reef flora and fauna, including big, bold blue angelfish, swirling schools of spadefish, jacks, grunts and pork fish, to name just a few. So the next time you are looking for a large animal encounter, think about Palm Beach County, Florida as an option. And those Goliath grouper spawning aggregations; well, let's just say that it's something you won't forget, and something you won't see anywhere else in the world. ■

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW PALM BEACH, FLORIDA



FreeVectorMaps.com

WHERE IS IT?

Palm Beach County lies on the east coast of Florida some 70 miles north of Miami.

HOW TO GET THERE

You can catch a direct flight from the UK into Miami and then rent a car to drive north to Palm Beach County.

WHEN TO GO

You can dive off Florida all year round, but particular critter aggregations happen at certain times of the year.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

British citizens need to have a valid ESTA and a pass-

port with at least six months left to expiry.

CURRENCY

US dollar (£1 = US\$1.51).

WHERE TO EAT AND MEET

This being the United States of America, you will never find yourself far from a bar or restaurant, and you can get pretty much whatever cuisine takes your fancy.

VERDICT

Palm Beach County, and Florida in general, offer some superlative wreck and reef diving, and with the added bonus of encounters with large marine life virtually guaranteed at certain times of the year, this is well worth adding to your 'to dive' list.



M/Y blue Voyager's

Grand Voyage...



WIN A HOLIDAY FOR TWO TO THE MALDIVES!

blue o two's fleet vessel, M/Y blue Voyager, is moving from the Red Sea to the Maldives. To celebrate her 'Grand Voyage', we are giving YOU the opportunity to **WIN two spaces** on board the newly refurbished vessel once she arrives in her new home.

RED SEA → **MALDIVES**

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN WIN...

Tell us how many hours you think it will take M/Y blue Voyager to sail from Hurghada in Egypt to Male in the Maldives

HOW TO ENTER...

Visit the **blue o two Facebook page** and enter via the 'Competition' tab. Simply enter how many hours you think it will take M/Y blue Voyager to sail from Hurghada in Egypt to Male in the Maldives and the closest guess to the actual time taken will **WIN a holiday for two to the Maldives!**



Liveaboard of the Year 2014, 2013, 2012, 2010, 2009, 2007 and Tour Operator of the Year 2011: DIVER Awards | Best Tour Operator 2014 & 2013 and Best Liveaboard 2013: Sport Diver Awards

www.blueotwo.com/sport

tel: +44 (0) 1752 480 808 | email: info@blueotwo.com



BSAC
Partner





PADI NEWS

Diving Society®

Join the world's biggest diving club



Become part of one big global family

The PADI Diving Society has been in existence since 1997, and from humble beginnings has grown substantially, within a few years reaching the heady heights of 'world's biggest diving club'. With membership now standing at over 180,000 keen, active divers across the planet, the PADI Diving Society represents a formidable 'tribe'.

Now all three sectors of the PADI Diving Society - Americas, Asia-Pacific and Europe, Middle East and Africa - have moved from been connected but fractured, uniting under a global banner and becoming one entity, with a unified approach and single magazine title reaching all members, everywhere. The magazines in each region will be targeted at their members, with reports and features on dive sites throughout their turf, plus tantalising glimpses of what lies across the world. Benefits and Society partners will also remain regional, but there is now the opportunity for a global focus, giving PADI Diving Society members the chance to make great savings wherever they travel through the scuba world.

SIMON SAYS...

Simon R Chance, manager, PADI Diving Society, and executive, PADI Retailer and Resort Associations

DIGITAL DELIGHTS

As usual over the early part of this year, it was a pleasure to meet with hundreds of PADI divers and professionals at various shows both here and abroad. Not surprisingly, given the wide appeal of the products themselves, the main topic of conversation with many surrounded the growing range of digital options for educational delivery and reference within the PADI system.

Further to the overview from last year, therefore, here's some more detail specifically regarding the educational and reference series within PADI's full digital products suite.

ONLINE - PADI ELEARNING®

PADI eLearning has been the learning method of choice for around a third of a million divers and, with at-your-own-pace convenience and knowledge reviews and exams proctored by PADI directly, with divers able to complete the knowledge development portion of their PADI programmes just about anywhere they have an internet connection, it's no wonder. Compatible with Windows and OSx operating systems, courses covered include all core levels - including Divemaster and Instructor - plus Digital Underwater Photographer, Enriched Air (Nitrox) and a Scuba Tune-Up option.

OFFLINE - PADI TOUCH™

While PADI eLearning set the standard for on-line learning, there has been a growing call for offline options through which divers can access their knowledge development materials; this also shares the advantage of traditional printed materials, in that they can be carried to dive sites or on vacation as a go-anywhere reference tool, but through a far richer, more-

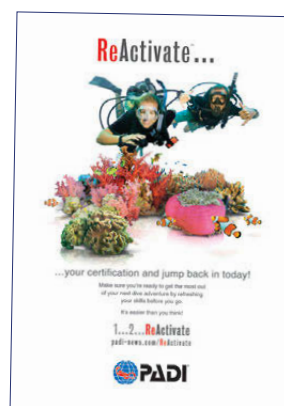
immersive and interactive - and, therefore, more educationally supportive - delivery mechanism.

Another industry first for PADI, the Touch systems are tablet-based,

currently compatible with both Apple iOS- and Android-based devices and, so far, include the Open Water programme, the eRDP-ML dive planning tool, a cool information package (a perfect support tool for the PADI Equipment Specialist programme) and the new ReActivate™ programme - all accessed via the PADI Library App.

The perfect way to update basic dive skills and knowledge, whether you want a few reminders or need to go over the basics, ReActivate is personalised for you; you conveniently review scuba concepts on your tablet, mobile device or computer, then go diving with a PADI professional. It's quick and easy, and a good way to prepare for your next PADI course or get ready for a diving vacation. The best part is, divers who complete both the knowledge and in-water skill refresher receive a replacement certification card with a 'ReActivated' date on it, showing your buddies and dive leaders that you're serious about keeping your scuba skills in-tune.

Want to know more? Go to: www.padi.com, simply ask at your local PADI store!



Did you know?

With more than 40 years experience, over 135,000 PADI professionals and more than 6,000 dive shops and resorts worldwide, PADI training materials and services let you experience scuba diving from nearly anywhere. Scuba diving with PADI instructors, dive centres and resorts can help transform your life through education, experience, equipment and environmental conservation.

CLIMBING KILI FOR CHARITY!

As a father and professional scuba diver, the last thing I wanted to hear was that my baby daughter had a terminal condition which specifically affected the lungs. But shortly after her birth, my wife and I learned that was indeed the case.

To say that we were devastated is an understatement, but after getting over our pity party, we decided to learn more about cystic fibrosis (CF). We were determined to find a way to give my little girl every opportunity in life, perhaps even to get into the sport that has given me so much.

We learned that, to keep a CF sufferer healthy, life-long treatment and full-time specialist physiotherapists are needed. Thankfully, these are all provided by Great Ormond Street Hospital for children. After three years of specialist care, I wanted to give something back and I set out to raise money for the cause.

Climbing Kilimanjaro, the world's highest free-standing mountain (actually a dormant volcano), was the chosen goal.

After roping in my very capable Divemaster, Dale Murphy (after all, what PADI instructor can achieve anything without his trusty Divemaster?), earlier this year I travelled to Tanzania, Africa, with our group of fundraising trekkers.

On 12 February, we set off along one of the most-scenic trails, the Rongai Route, approaching 'Kili' from the north-east. As with a dive trip, promises of exotic wildlife sightings (in this case, elephants and other big game) remained unfulfilled, but the five breathtaking ecological zones we passed through were more than enough to make up for it.



As someone accustomed to controlled breathing while exploring alien landscapes, I found my diving skills invaluable. As our altitude increased, some of my travelling companions weren't used to demanding air and controlling their breathing. Teaching some basic hand signals along with breathing techniques gave our trekkers the ability to communicate without wasting air! (I feel the makings of a PADI Distinctive Specialty forming in my head.) After four long days of trekking, we finally reached Kilimanjaro's Uhuru peak at 5,895 metres, where I can honestly say I saw some of the most-amazing views of my life. I felt an overwhelming feeling of achievement having travelled so far for a cause so close to home. I'd like to say a massive thanks to all my fundraising companions, Oceanic and everyone else who has donated. We raised over £70,000 for Great Ormond Street Hospital. Thank you.

Matt Bacon, Fin Divers

Divesangha's Brand Ambassador 'on' for the Worlds

Further to last month's Simon Says, I am delighted to announce that Rebecca Coales - Brand Ambassador for PADI Diving Society benefit partners, Divesangha, and breaker of multiple freediving records in the challenging discipline of Dynamic Apnea - has been successful in her bid for Crowdfunding support. As you will recall, Rebecca is mounting a June challenge to bring the World Championship

title to Britain, but the training, travel and subsistence costs are huge; thankfully, over 60 backers have so far helped to meet the initial funding targets, so thanks to everyone who has chipped in. And, as I said last month, while few of us will ever look quite as good as Rebecca - even helped by Divesangha's cool gear - we can at least share the look, and enjoy saving 15 percent as PADI Diving Society members!

LEADING THE WAY



Congratulations as always to our latest PADI Master Scuba Divers, whose achievements have been highlighted to us in the last month or so:

- Anna Barry, Wimbledon, London
- Ronald Hall, Launceston, Cornwall
- David Millard, Ballaugh, Isle of Man

I've also been very touched to hear from Julia Abrey, who became a PADI Master Scuba Diver together with her son Tom - then just 16 years old - last year. Julia has dived since before Tom was born, and clearly there's something in the genes as Tom himself was always keen to take up the sport even from a very young age. Starting at 13, his progress inspired Julia to dive back in and pass with him! Once his AS Levels are out of the way (good luck with those, Tom!), his plans are currently pointing toward starting his PADI Divemaster programme as soon as he turns 18 in the autumn; in the meantime, this skilled buddy pair will continue enjoying diving together.

If you would like to know more about the PADI Master Scuba Diver programme, contact your local PADI Professional, or visit PADI's website via <http://tinyurl.com/PADI-MasterDiver>

Well done once again to all PADI Master Scuba Divers, wherever you are!

The Maldives... "An incredible underwater adventure awaits!"



Kuredu Island Resort
www.kuredu.com



Komandoo Island Resort
www.komandoo.com



Vakarufalhi Island Resort
www.vakaru.com



Lily Beach Island Resort
www.lilybeachmaldives.com

prodivers
kuredu - komandoo - vakarufalhi - lily beach

For more information visit www.prodivers.com



Bonaire Grenada Curacao Saba Aruba St. Martin

WE ARE THE SPECIALIST FOR THESE WONDERFUL CARIBBEAN ISLANDS

They include islands that have been voted:

- ★ BEST SHORE DIVING IN THE WORLD
- ★ BEST WRECK DIVING IN THE CARIBBEAN
- ★ BEST SNORKELLING
- ★ BEST FOR UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY
- ★ BEST LEARNER DIVER'S DESTINATION

We tailor-make holidays for divers and non-divers. We are the preferred tour operator - with exclusive rates - for many resorts on these islands. Contact us for a holiday quotation...

www.caribbeanfuntravel.co.uk
info@caribbeanfuntravel.co.uk • 01604 88 29 29



Ready to (un)pack your bags?

Your Buddies on Bonaire & Dominica

International Reservations
+ (599) 717 5080

www.buddydive.com
www.belmar-bonaire.com
www.caribbeanclubbonaire.com

Buddy Dive



Bonaire & Dominica

Dive, Relax & Explore
Caribbean Club Bonaire

BELMAR
Bonaire
Oceanfront Apartments



Learning the Tangled Ropes of Knot Tying

There is much more to diving than meets the eye. Although you need to know your way around your scuba gear and even your dive site, there are many other aspects that you will become more familiar with as you start to venture underwater more often.

It helps to have a number of skills that, at first glance, you may not think have anything to do with the quality of your dive. Whether you are venturing out to sea with a guided group or exploring a freshwater lake with one or two other divers, it is important to know a few things about knots.

As a highly valued skill in sailing, it is no surprise that it comes up so frequently in diving situations as well. Tying down a dive boat to a mooring or laying a penetration line for a wreck dive are just two examples of when you may find it helpful to know how to find your way around a piece of rope.

Here are 5 useful knots to learn – you can even practice these on land whilst waiting for your next dive!

- **Bowline Knot** - The “every knot.” A bowline creates a secure yet easily-untied loop. If you have time to master only one type of knot, invest your skill into the bowline.
- **Sheet Bend** - If you have two ropes but need to combine them to make one long rope, this simple bend allows you to join two or more similar ropes.
- **Two Half Hitches Knot** - Good for tying a mooring line to a post or ring, this knot is especially useful because it can be tied one-handed.
- **Cinching Line Wrap** - Interested in a more complicated knot? This is an intermediate tie for your guideline cave/wreck diving. A cinching line wrap can even be released without affecting the line.
- **Trucker’s Hitch** - Sometimes you have to batten down the hatches and tie down the cargo over choppy waters. The trucker’s hitch is ideal for cinching down a load.

Download the free PADI App (for iOS and Android) and visit the Tools section. You’ll find animated instructions for tying these knots (plus many others) while you’re on the go.





About the movement

Project AWARE Foundation is a growing movement of scuba divers protecting the ocean planet – one dive at a time. Over the past two decades of underwater conservation we've learned that divers are true leaders in ocean protection. We're ocean heroes numbering in the millions across the globe. We believe together our actions will make a huge impact and will help to rescue the ocean.

MY OCEAN NEWS

DOMINO ALBERT,
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER



Earlier this year the world lost an ocean hero and inspirational woman who dedicated her life to shark research, science and conservation - Dr Eugenie Clark, a pioneering marine biologist, also known as the 'Shark Lady', who passed away on 25 February at age 92.

A pioneer in marine conservation and the study of shark behaviour, she defied society's expectations about women's roles in science, championed the use of scuba diving for science, and contributed to demystifying the much-feared underwater creatures she studied most of her life. "When you see a shark underwater, you should say how lucky I am to see this beautiful animal in its environment," she once said.

Her scuba diving adventures started in the 1940s at a time when the research world was mostly dominated by male scientists. She never lost her passion for diving, making her last dive on her 92nd birthday in the Red Sea.

She was a pioneer not only in shark science, but in communicating scientific findings to the public. Author of hundreds of academic and scientific publications, she also wrote popular books detailing her adventures and love of fish. She continued to dive, give lectures, and attend scientific symposia until very recently. She remained enormously popular and will be deeply missed, but her memory will continue through her legacy.

TOP THREE WAYS TO TAKE ACTION FOR EARTH DAY



22 April marks the 45th anniversary of Earth Day, an annual event celebrated worldwide to demonstrate support for environmental protection. As the science fiction writer Arthur C Clarke once pointed out: "How inappropriate to call this planet Earth when it is quite clearly Ocean." So for scuba divers, Earth Day is a special time of the year to celebrate our blue planet and take action to protect the ocean and its wildlife.

This year, under the Earth Day theme 'Our Turn to Lead', the Project AWARE movement will once again lead the way as we tackle the global marine debris problem from beneath the waves. We know only too well the devastating impact that marine debris has on ocean wildlife. We see it first-hand. Nearly 700 species of marine animal have been recorded as having encountered human-made debris such as plastic and glass according to a recent impact study conducted by Plymouth University. Through Project AWARE's Dive Against Debris programme, divers are truly able to lead efforts and actions to collect, remove and report data on what lies beneath the ocean surface. By conducting Dive Against Debris surveys year round, divers are protecting marine wildlife from the ocean's silent killer. This Earth Day show the world how divers are leading the fight against debris and how together we're taking action to help protect the ocean.

Become a Debris Activist: An astonishing amount of plastic waste makes its way underwater - as much as eight million tons scientists estimate - reaching even the most-remote ocean areas. In 2014, nearly 5,000 scuba divers in 60 countries removed and reported 90,000 pieces of trash from underwater environments, much of it plastic (view what was found at projectaware.org/DiveAgainstDebrisMap). But we need to



build an army of divers to combat marine litter every day and influence change. Don't let your dives go to waste. Take the new Dive Against Debris specialty and join the battle against marine debris at: projectaware.org/DiveAgainstDebris.

Shrink your Carbon Footprint: Global warming and ocean acidification are putting your favourite animals and the whole ocean planet at risk. Do your part by understanding and reducing your carbon footprint and look for ways to offset what you can't reduce. Did you know that electricity is the biggest single source of carbon emissions in Britain? Start shrinking your carbon footprint today! Switch your gas and electricity to Ecotricity to help protect the ocean from the adverse effects of carbon emissions. By switching to Ecotricity not only will you be doing your bit for the environment, but Ecotricity will donate up to £60 to support our conservation work on your behalf. Just remember to quote 'PROJ1' when you switch at: www.ecotricity.co.uk!

Join the Movement: One of the biggest questions people ask Project AWARE is "what can I do to help?" In 2014, nearly 5,500 ocean advocates answered our call to help protect 21 species of sharks and rays by sending almost 29,000 letters to country leaders. Be in the know and answer important calls to action or discover opportunities to volunteer. Sign up to receive action alerts at: projectaware.org and be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

From climate change to marine debris, we can all take action to protect our blue planet and make a difference, and this Earth Day, it's 'Our Turn to Lead'. Thank you for joining us during the Earth Day celebrations, for fighting to protect some of the world's most-threatened species of sharks and rays and tackling big issues like marine debris.

Dive INTO 2015 with

SCUBA TRAVEL

0800 072 8221

dive@scubatravel.com



We don't sell any holidays we would not want to do ourselves! Let us take the stress out of booking with the peace of mind that we are fully ATOL bonded. Your holiday is in safe hands.

www.scubatravel.com

Travel with your buddy FOR GREAT DIVE OFFERS SAVE up to £1300

Offers available to
some of our favourite dive
destinations including Honduras,
Maldives, Philippines and Mexico...

Buy one get one FREE

On accommodation, full board and diving
packages in Roatan, Honduras

Buddy goes HALF price plus FREE nights

At selected resorts in the Maldives

TWO for ONE dive pack offers

In Malapascua, Philippines and Mexico

Contact our Dive team to book your diving adventure
Book by 30 April 2015 and quote code: SD SpringBuddy

REQUEST YOUR SEASONAL BROCHURE NOW

T's & C's Apply- see website for further details



DIVE

WORLDWIDE
TRAVEL | EXPERIENCE | CONSERVE

diveworldwide.com
01962 302050 sales@diveworldwide.com





PADI

Diving Society®

12 MONTHS FOR ONLY £24.98



PADI MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Diving Society®

The PADI Diving Society is the largest diver affinity group of its kind offering Society members a vast range of benefits for a lifetime of scuba diving adventures. Whether you're a raw novice, an experienced diver, or even a seasoned PADI Pro, take advantage of our annual offer and enjoy:

- Membership to the PADI Diving Society
- Subscription to Sport Diver magazine
- Thousands of pounds in valuable rebates and discounts on gear, dive training and more!
- Personalised PADI Diving Society Membership Card

Get **12 months** for **£24.98** when you subscribe by Direct Debit - **SAVING 50%**

Or, **£29.98** for 12 months by credit/debit card - **SAVING 40%**

EASY WAYS TO ORDER

 www.subscriptionsave.co.uk/spd
 **0844 848 8045** quote code **CDS15X5A**

Terms and Conditions: Direct Debit is a UK offer only. Details of Direct Debit Guarantee are available on request. *Offer of 50% saving is a Direct Debit payment only and will continue at £29.98 annually after the first claim. Savings are based on the cover price of £4.20. Sport Diver is published 12 times a year. For overseas subscription rates, please visit www.subscriptionsave.co.uk. Offer ends 06/05/2015.

Professional Diving Academy



"Turn Your Passion For Adventure into an Exciting New Commercial Diving Career"



- High Value International HSE Professional Diving Qualification
- Externally Audited SQA Accredited Subsea Skills Training Courses
- World-Class Reputation Within the Diving Industry for Training Excellence
- The UK's Newest School, With Modern Equipment, Facilities & Training Approach



A preferred supplier to the
career transition partnership
The Ministry of Defence working with Right Management



professionaldivingacademy.com

+44 (0) 1369 701 701

info@professionaldivingacademy.com



COMMERCIAL DIVING

Get job satisfaction, flexibility, lucrative earnings and worldwide travel.

Take your diving to the next level with training from the commercial diving experts.

Contact our Student Advisors to find out more:

+44 (0) 1397 703786, fortwilliam@theunderwatercentre.com

www.theunderwatercentre.com or scan the QR code for more info.

THE UNDERWATER CENTRE
FORT WILLIAM



The best of Turks and Caicos Islands Scuba Diving

West Caicos • Pine Cay • Northwest Point • Grace Bay • French Cay



Dive Provo

Photograph by Stuart Philpott

Tel: Island (001) 649 946 5040 or US (001) 954 351 9771
or email: diving@diveprovo.com

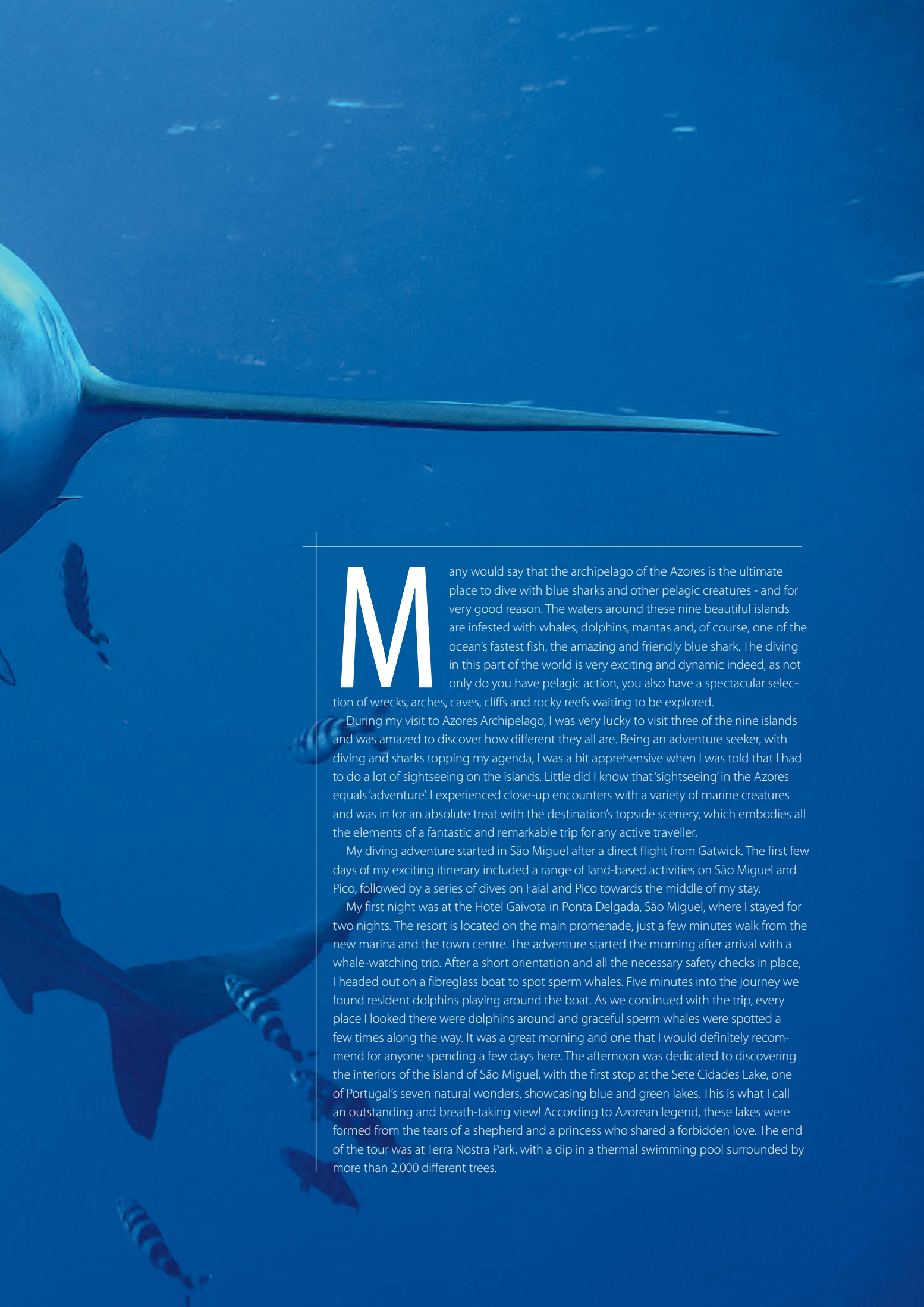
www.diveprovo.com



THE ALLURING AZORES

It might be best known for its pelagic action, but as **MARCELINA JESUS** discovered, the Azores offers a superlative mix of topside and underwater attractions for the visiting diver

Photographs by MARCELINA JESUS AND NORBERTO DIVER



M

any would say that the archipelago of the Azores is the ultimate place to dive with blue sharks and other pelagic creatures - and for very good reason. The waters around these nine beautiful islands are infested with whales, dolphins, mantas and, of course, one of the ocean's fastest fish, the amazing and friendly blue shark. The diving in this part of the world is very exciting and dynamic indeed, as not only do you have pelagic action, you also have a spectacular selection of wrecks, arches, caves, cliffs and rocky reefs waiting to be explored.

During my visit to Azores Archipelago, I was very lucky to visit three of the nine islands and was amazed to discover how different they all are. Being an adventure seeker, with diving and sharks topping my agenda, I was a bit apprehensive when I was told that I had to do a lot of sightseeing on the islands. Little did I know that 'sightseeing' in the Azores equals 'adventure'. I experienced close-up encounters with a variety of marine creatures and was in for an absolute treat with the destination's topside scenery, which embodies all the elements of a fantastic and remarkable trip for any active traveller.

My diving adventure started in São Miguel after a direct flight from Gatwick. The first few days of my exciting itinerary included a range of land-based activities on São Miguel and Pico, followed by a series of dives on Faial and Pico towards the middle of my stay.

My first night was at the Hotel Gaivota in Ponta Delgada, São Miguel, where I stayed for two nights. The resort is located on the main promenade, just a few minutes walk from the new marina and the town centre. The adventure started the morning after arrival with a whale-watching trip. After a short orientation and all the necessary safety checks in place, I headed out on a fibreglass boat to spot sperm whales. Five minutes into the journey we found resident dolphins playing around the boat. As we continued with the trip, every place I looked there were dolphins around and graceful sperm whales were spotted a few times along the way. It was a great morning and one that I would definitely recommend for anyone spending a few days here. The afternoon was dedicated to discovering the interiors of the island of São Miguel, with the first stop at the Sete Cidades Lake, one of Portugal's seven natural wonders, showcasing blue and green lakes. This is what I call an outstanding and breath-taking view! According to Azorean legend, these lakes were formed from the tears of a shepherd and a princess who shared a forbidden love. The end of the tour was at Terra Nostra Park, with a dip in a thermal swimming pool surrounded by more than 2,000 different trees.

WORLDWIDE DIVING

Tailor-made Holidays, Resorts & Liveaboards in over 20 top dive destinations worldwide

- LIVEABOARDS
- MALTA & GOZO
- AZORES
- RED SEA
- OMAN
- MALDIVES
- INDONESIA
- PHILIPPINES
- THAILAND
- MEXICO
- CARIBBEAN
- PEMBA
- GALAPAGOS & MORE



© Malcom Nobbs

RegalDive 01353 659999
www.regaldive.co.uk

The Diving Holiday Specialists



ULTIMATE
iving



Specialists in Worldwide Diving Holidays



NORBERTO DIVER - AZORES

Norberto Diver on Faial Island is a pioneer in unforgettable sea experiences offering a range of activities ranging from diving expeditions with sharks and rays to whale watching, swimming with dolphins and boat rides to close by islands.



£885 inc flights, transfers, 7 nights in apartment on RO basis & 10 dives

CALL 0208 655 6452

www.ultimatediving.co.uk

www.norbertodiver.pt

OTTER WATERSPORTS LTD

Tel: 01274 379480 | sales@drysuits.co.uk
www.drysuits.co.uk

KUBI

Official Watersports Supplier



A great undersuit/drysuit combo when teamed up with the Britannic Telescopic mk2

Made To Measure Available

Hand Made In Yorkshire

RRP
£150

RRP
£170

Brand New concept in Undersuits

RRP
£150

This is the perfect accompaniment for technical divers under our newly designed Britannic Telescopic MK2 Drysuit.

- * Jumper/Cardigan or Onesie Style.
- * Socks available separately.
- * Pockets as standard.
- * Stirrups on legs.
- * Elastic thumb loops on wrists
- * Cosy, soft cuffing on wrists & ankles.
- * Heavy-duty plastic zip.

RRP
£1340.00

Most makes of Drysuits Repaired



911 Wakefield Road, Dudley Hill, Bradford, BD4 7QA

DIVE
RITE

NOMAD

LTZ

SIDEMOUNT

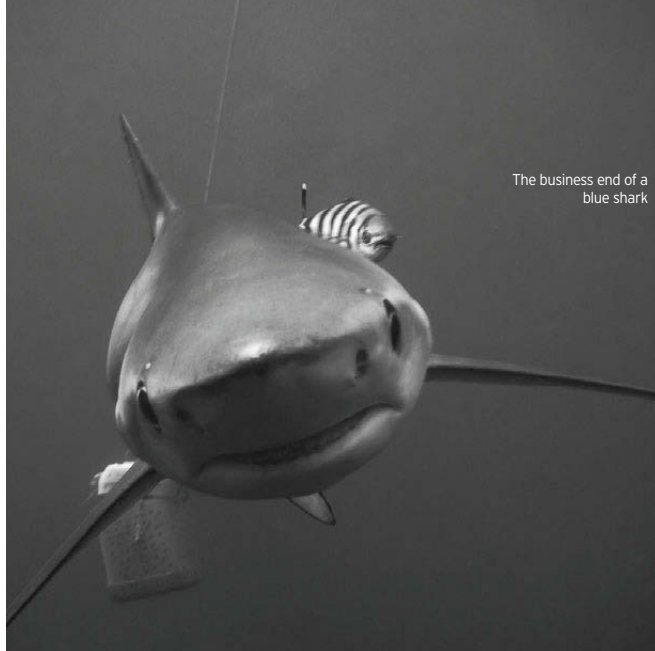
evolving to provide superior performance

HUNTERPAC
BCD

streamlined BCD excels in any kind of diving

WWW.SEA-SEA.COM





The business end of a blue shark



Sperm whales hanging out in the blue



Majestic blue shark coming in for a closer look at the divers

"Yes, the Azores is a great destination for pelagic diving, but the season has to be absolutely right to avoid disappointment"

As the sun rose and I woke up to the soothing sound of the waves hitting the marina in front of the hotel, I started my journey from island to island, with a short and scenic flight from São Miguel to Pico Island. Upon landing on Pico, I could see and feel the difference between the islands already. São Miguel is a very green and colourful island, whereas Pico has a unique character with a volcanic flavour that is carried from the mountain summit to the island's underwater topography, which is full of arches and caves for suitably qualified divers. The island is beautiful and I spent the whole day exploring old monuments, churches, historic locations, UNESCO vineyard sites, fishing villages and the beautiful Pico Mountain, which stands at 2,350 metres high and is the highest point in Portugal.

The evening took me from Pico to Faial Island, where my underwater adventure began. The ferry trip between the two islands only took 20 minutes and soon after I was at the Hotel Do Canal, my home for the next four days. This hotel represents the very best of Portuguese hospitality, with a stunning selection of authentic, Portuguese-infused accommodation that suits all tastes and budgets. The hotel's position close to a range of trip organisers and dive operators means you can be as spontaneous as you like and freestyle your agenda after arriving at the resort. Settling into my beautiful and spacious room was an easy and efficient task and soon after I was heading out to eat at Canto do Doca, a lively and very popular restaurant located on the Horta Harbour.

Thankfully all the excitement of the night before did not leave me too exhausted and I was up early for diving the next day. This is what I had been waiting for since the moment I landed on the islands.

On arrival at Norberto Diver, a short walk from the hotel, I met Claudia and Norberto himself, a legend in the Azores, and the rest of the dive crew - Fred, Marco Paulo (also known as 'Foca'), Fabio and Rita. With all the necessary checks completed and getting myself geared up and prepared for the clear blue 20 degree C water temperature with a semi-drysuit, all divers headed to the boat.

Our first dive was at Entre Montes, a great site to do your check dive and begin your Azorean underwater adventure. Entre Montes is a tiny bay formed by a small cove with a mixed sandy and rocky bottom. The dive site was made extra special when I saw my first dusky grouper along with many morays, damselfish and scorpionfish everywhere I looked. The dives that followed did not disappoint either, as all divers came out of every single dive feeling excited about their experiences. My second and third dive was at Boca das Caldeirinhas on Faial and Ilhéus da Madalena on Pico Island. Yes, I was back on Pico, but this time for diving only! Boca das Caldeirinhas is a natural protected reserve with great visibility of 20 to 30 metres plus and definitely the dive site for moray eel lovers, as they can be seen between every rock, along with dozens of salema fish, beautiful cuckoo and ornate wrasse, lobster and triggerfish. Ilhéus da Madalena on the west coast of Pico is made up of small islands as a result of underwater volcanic activity, now home to black and brown morays, wrasse, grouper and seahorses.

I was told it was going to be the 'shark dive' the day after and I was ready for more exciting diving. An opportunity to dive with sharks is always welcome! I was up early and ready to get up close and personal with these extremely fast swimmers. At around 8.30am, we got ready and made our way to the dive site, a journey of about 45 minutes. The dive site for my shark adventure was on a channel between the 'Triangle Islands' of Faial, Pico and São Jorge. On arrival, I assumed we would get ready to enter the water, but soon after the dive briefing I knew there was a lot of waiting to be done as the dive leader had to prepare the shark bait! The 'bait box' was dropped in the water to attract the blue sharks living in very deep waters and so the waiting game began. I have to be honest, after an hour of waiting I was reluctantly losing hope but Fabio was positive and told us to be patient - and he was right. After a couple



Massive shoal of rays

"I returned home feeling like I needed a holiday - and could not be happier about that feeling"

of hours waiting on the boat, I was almost half asleep and awoke to hear Fabio shout "Tubaroes, Tubaroes", the Portuguese name for 'sharks, sharks' and within minutes we were all in the water surrounded by eight beautiful blue sharks. What an amazing experience - I don't think there is a dive experience like this anywhere else in Europe. The dive lasted about one hour and 15 minutes and we were always surrounded by these beautiful, curious and friendly creatures. It was the peak of my visit and I can only imagine what Condor Bank has to offer. The seamount of Condor is one of the main spots for diving with blue sharks, located 20 miles south of Faial Island. On a typical day you can expect to see 15 extremely curious predators moving slowly among divers and around the boat.

Princess Alice Bank was the trip scheduled for the next day and what a way to end my adventure on the islands. The bank is located about five hours away from Faial Island and the 12-metre long catamaran departed at 7.30am from the dive centre jetty. Princess Alice is the most-famous seamount of the archipelago and the ethos here is close encounters with large groups of devil rays and schools of thousands of pelagic fish in a unique setting with visibility ranging around 30 metres. I completed two fabulous dives and encountered lots of rays gracefully making their way through the large schools of jacks, trevallies and barracuda. A beautiful smooth hammerhead shark was also spotted in the area just towards the end of the dive. This is what I call a great day's diving, one that will stand high in my memory album!

Yes, the Azores is a great destination for pelagic diving, but the season has to be absolutely right to avoid disappointment. If blue sharks and rays are your main interest, then June, July and August are your travel months. The remaining summer months also offer great diving opportunities, but the chances of getting close to these beautiful sea creatures are more limited.



Scorpionfish



The blue sharks are the undoubted stars of the show

My last evening in the Azores ended with a beautiful sunset over Pico Mountain visible from Faial Island and a weekly occurrence of a massive and mouth-watering BBQ, courtesy of Norberto and his crew right in front of the dive centre, where all divers, snorkellers and whale watchers are invited to join and share their experiences during their adventurous week.

I have been so lucky during my diving career to have dived a number of destinations around the world in the last few years, and although they have all been great and offered amazing diving opportunities, the Azores was very special to me and made it to the top of my favourite destinations list. In the Azores I was able to easily combine my love for pelagic encounters with a range of adventure activities. I returned home feeling like I needed a holiday - and could not be happier about that feeling. The Azores is a great destination, within easy reach, with friendly people, great diving and lots to do and see. What more could a diver/adventure seeker ask for? ■

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW THE AZORES



WHERE IS IT?

The nine islands that make up the Azores Archipelago lie in the Atlantic Ocean 1564km to the west of Lisbon in Portugal.

HOW TO GET THERE

There are direct flights with SATA from London Gatwick to Ponta Delgada between April and October. The flight time is approximately four hours.

WHEN TO GO

The Azores dive season runs from April to September with the best months being June, July and August.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Passport with a minimum of six months validity.

CURRENCY

Euro (£1 = €1.34 Euro).

WHERE TO EAT AND MEET

Huge selection of Portuguese-inspired restaurants.

VERDICT

The Azores is the ideal destination for a short-haul shark-fuelled adventure trip combined with breath-taking landscapes.



Specialists in Worldwide Diving Holidays



WELCOME TO THE AZORES - A SEA OF EMOTIONS WAITING TO BE DISCOVERED

The Azores is considered one of the world's top locations for whale watching with the Sperm Whale being its most iconic image. Divers venturing to this beautiful archipelago discover that these islands with mild waters and incredible visibility hide some of the best underwater adventures in Europe. The Azores is a true sanctuary for a large and varied number of marine species. Diving with pelagic fish is one of the most paradigmatic dives in the Azores offering encounters with dozens of beautiful devil rays and up close and personal encounters with blue sharks on remote seamounts. For more information on the Azores and to request a brochure visit www.visitazores.com.



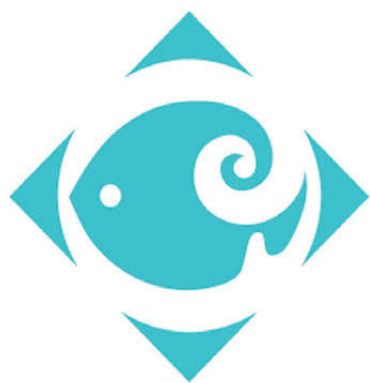
AZORES TRAVEL PACKAGE: Book your Ultimate Blue Shark and Devil Ray encounter with Ultimate Diving from as little as £1249 per person. Price includes flights from Gatwick, 7 nights at the Hotel Do Canal on B&B basis, transfers, 6 coastal dives, 1 day trip to Princess Alice Bank and a trip to Condor Bank with Norberto Diver. Add On's: 7 nights on Sao Miguel Island at the Caloura Hotel Resort with 10 dives - £785.



CALL 0208 655 6452 www.ultimatediving.co.uk
BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE - 100% FINANCIAL SECURITY

You can book with confidence as we are licenced by the Civil Aviation Authority and hold ATOL number T7215. This ensures that in the event of our failure or any one of our partners such as liveaboard operators or dive centres, your money will be protected; if you are on holiday at the time, arrangements will be made for you to complete your holiday and return home.





wakatobi

uncovered

SEEING THE LITTLE PICTURE: On the reefs of Wakatobi, small things become big attractions

You've probably been advised not to lose sight of the forest for the trees. But sometimes, it does pay to not only focus in on an individual tree, but to get up really close and see what small surprises might be hiding among the leaves and on the bark. This advice certainly applies to the reefs surrounding Wakatobi Dive Resort.

When hovering on the edge of a dramatic wall, suspended in clear water, it's easy to get caught up in the grandeur of the big picture. Just don't forget that hidden within that landscape are thousands of small and fascinating varieties of marine life, just waiting to be discovered. The search for the small, rare and unusual becomes a full-time passion for some divers, but you don't have to be a veteran critter hunter to find the small stuff, you just need to know where to start looking.

Big animals eat smaller ones. It's a fact of nature. And so, the smaller the animal, the more likely it is to hide, seek shelter or employ some other method of protective behaviour. Knowing this provides some hints as to where the small stuff lives on Wakatobi's reefs. The simplest way for a small fry to get away from a would-be predator is to duck into a small opening. You'll

find plenty of these hidey-holes among the perforated peaks and valleys of a tabletop coral. As you approach, you may spot some chevron butterflyfish hovering nearby. These are the adults. Look closer into the pitted surfaces of the coral and you'll see the juveniles peeking out from the safety of their small but secure recesses.

There are a number of other species that take up residences in this

textured coral. Brightly coloured anthias share space with several species of damselfish, some of which seem pretty aggressive. These are the farmers, and they are actually cultivating algae gardens on the coral, and defending their patches from intruders. Zoom in even closer and you may notice a coral crab scuttling about, or find a tiny shrimp

perched on the edge of a recess.

Taking advantage of physical structure isn't the only way small creatures find protection on the reef. Several species have learned to use the borrowed threat of chemical warfare to keep predators at bay. Find an anemone at Wakatobi and there's a good chance to also discover one or more species of clownfish entrenched within the stinging tentacles. In addition to the familiar orange clownfish, which resembles the movie character Nemo, there are many more species found in the Wakatobi region; in fact, several guests have reported seeing seven during a single dive within a short distance of the jetty at the resort. Keep looking and you may also notice a small porcelain anemone crab deep within the tentacles. By coating themselves with the anemone's own mucus, they fool their host and avoid painful stings. This trick does provide benefits to the host,

as the crabs clean debris from the tentacles to keep everything tidy.

In addition to crabs, you may come across a red and brown anemone shrimp swaying rhythmically back and forth like a tiny hula dancer. The shrimp is another cleaner who exchanges housekeeping services for a life of safety among the tentacles.

Many reef dwellers use colour and camouflage to blend into their sur-



PHOTO CREDIT: MARK SNYDER



PHOTO CREDIT: WALT STEARNS



PHOTO CREDIT: MARCO FIERLI



PHOTO CREDIT: MARCO FIERLI



PHOTO CREDIT: WALT STEARNS

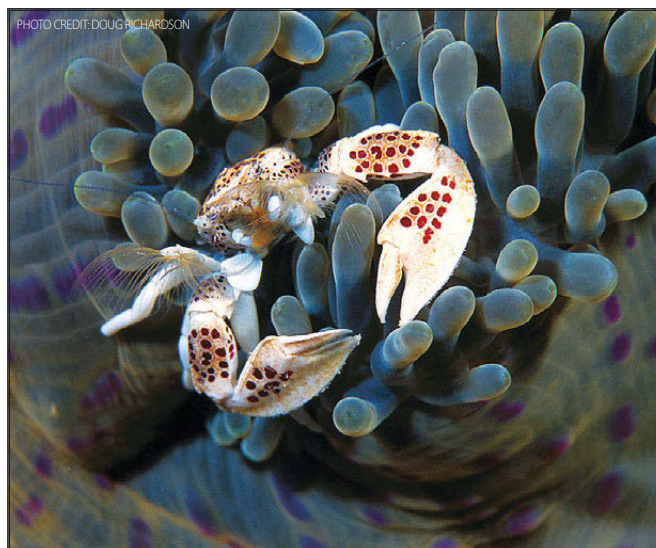


PHOTO CREDIT: DOUG RICHARDSON

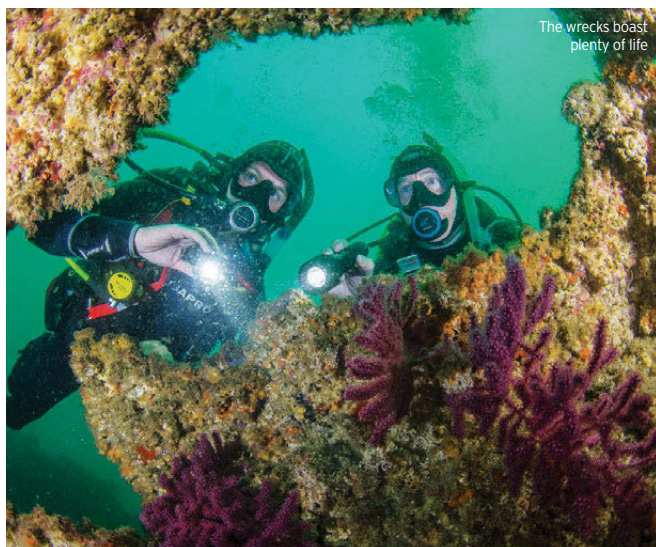


PHOTO CREDIT: WALT STEARNS

roundings. And when the animal in question is especially small, finding them becomes even more difficult. To increase your chances of finding some of Wakatobi's most elusive creatures, pick out a gorgonian that you can approach closely without disturbing the surroundings, and start looking. The checkerboard pattern of a longnose hawkfish helps it blend in to the textures of the sea fan, but a closer look will reveal the deception. Streamlined gorgonian gobies use similar strategies to blend with the stalks of fans or sea whips. Keep looking, and when a lumpy section of the sea fan begins to move, you may find it might actually be a soft coral crab, which has not only adapted its body to resemble the gorgonian, but also decorated its body with coral polyps and branches. Hardest of all to spot are Wakatobi's darlings, pygmy seahorses, which are so perfectly hidden among the branches of the gorgonian that they remained unknown to science until a few decades ago.

As your prowess as a small critter finder grows, you will begin to recognise signs of life everywhere. What once might have been an isolated and uninteresting coral head becomes a miniature theatre of marine life activity. By learning to see the little picture, you can make every dive more rewarding and memorable. ■





The wrecks boast plenty of life



Close-up encounter with an octopus

A long weekend in **GIBRALTAR**

We all love UK diving long-weekends, but how about throwing a bit of British soil in the sun into the mix? **DAVID JONES** set his sights on Gibraltar

Photographs by **DAVID JONES**

We all like a bit of a bargain. The UK diving fraternity definitely likes a bargain! But at the same time, we always want to do some good diving. Living on the South Coast, I am fortunate enough to have great diving on my doorstep, and during the summer months we can get six metres of visibility. But to get to those locations on the fringe of the diving season with good wrecks and reefs, and better visibility, it is a bit of a trek. Five and a half hours drive each way in some instances. Then add on the hotel room at £60 a night, evening meals and drinks, and diving at around £60-£70 a day, it all starts to add up - and it was still bloomin' cold!

My mind wandered and I remembered those cheap package deals that used to be advertised. All-in flight and accommodation deals for less than £300 - out of season, of course. I wondered if I could get a cheap weekend away to somewhere different. A quick search on the internet and I started planning for a long weekend of diving in Gibraltar. I had been before, but not for a few years; it was English-speaking, the currency is the same, the weather was definitely warmer, and the flight time was less than the time it takes me to drive to Plymouth.

A bit of searching around and I had booked it up. I flew into Malaga for no other reason than it was the cheapest deal on the dates I had available, but you could just as easily get a budget flight to Gibraltar. I found a flight from Luton to Gibraltar in March for £135. I also opted to stay in Spain, again because it was the cheapest option. My plan for the 'week-

end experiment' was to do two days of diving as I might on an away trip to Cornwall, or Pembrokeshire.

The challenge was on. Taking into consideration the time to drive to Gatwick and the normal check in time, it took me about 30 minutes longer to get to Malaga than it did the last time I drove to Porthkerry. Some 30 minutes later and I was in my accommodation enjoying a pint of 'San Mig' - at half the price it is in UK - and looking forward to some diving the next day. Simon Bell, the UK owner and PADI Course Director at Simply Diving, picked me up at 8am the following morning and we drove for about an hour to the border with Gibraltar. The motorway connection that now bypasses the old coastal road I remember from long ago makes it very quick and easy. There were no queues at the border and we drove straight through.

I had opted for some shore diving for this day, not something I had done before in Gibraltar. We parked next to the beach at Camp Bay, and just around the corner was Rosia Bay, where the Victory was taken for repair after the Battle of Trafalgar. The whole place is steeped in history and the old victualing yards and fortifications inspire the imagination. But, I was on a mission so no time to stop and enjoy it. Just off the beach are a number of wrecks. The first dive was to Three Spanish Barges (it is what it says on the tin), all of which were deliberately sunk to create artificial reefs. They are a short swim from the beach and you can cover all three on the same dive. Lying between 9m and 16m, these sites were covered in vegetation and marine life. Sea bream, grey mullet, streaked gurnards and scorpionfish as well as more tropical species were in abundance.

WESTFIELD

SUB AQUA & MARINE INSURANCE SERVICES LTD

Don't get left on the shore

NOT all Travel Insurance is developed with the Diver and Diving in mind!

Read the exclusions... you'll be surprised! ...we were!

**OUR POLICY HAS BEEN ARRANGED
FOR YOU AND YOUR SPORT!**

Comprehensive Travel Insurance with
Savings of up to 50%*



The Sub Aqua Association choose us for our Insurance expertise!



Insurance also Available for;

DIVING EQUIPMENT, BOAT, COMPRESSOR and PERSONAL ACCIDENT

For an instant quote phone 'your insurance buddy'
on 01483 237827 or visit www.divinginsuranceuk.com

*on our standard premiums for your wife/husband if included on your policy!
Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.



WRECKS REEFS BOAT TEC PADI COURSES



DIVING IN SPAIN

With the Costa del Sol's only British PADI 5 Star CDC dive centres

located in Malaga and Marbella



www.simplydiving.com
dive@simplydiving.com
(0034) 600 506 526



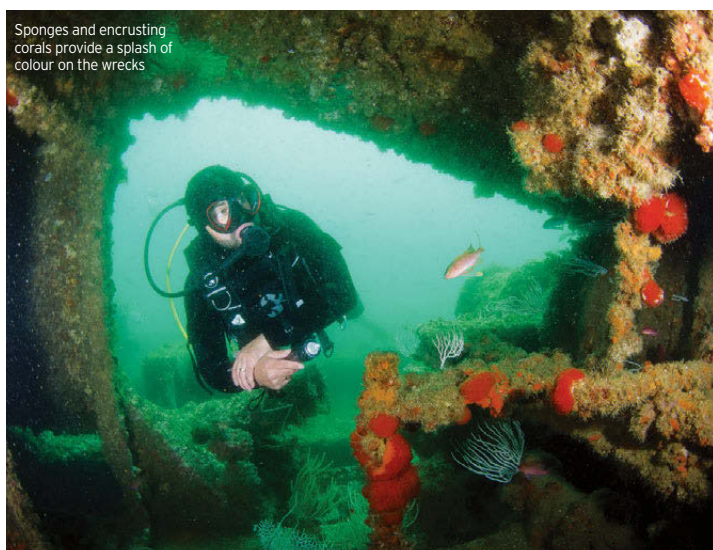


Octopus of a decent size lurked on the seabed

Huge octopus also stalked the wrecks, looking for an easy meal, while cuttlefish hovered in the distance. It wasn't challenging but it was really nice. Water temperature was 16 degrees C, there was no current or tide to worry about and visibility was ten to 15 metres on a bad day.

After soaking up a few rays during the surface interval, and thinking to myself 'they are not doing that in Portland at this time of year', we prepared for the second dive. Still in Camp Bay we swam to the '482', a Royal Navy cable-laying vessel that was sunk on purpose. Having explored this 30-metre, we moved on to 'Battys Barge'. Both wreck have lots of nooks and crannies to explore and plenty of life. A few large congers inhabit the barge and you will also see moray eels. That mix of temperate winter and

"Huge octopus also stalked the wrecks, looking for an easy meal, while cuttlefish hovered in the distance"



Sponges and encrusting corals provide a splash of colour on the wrecks

warm summer waters brings about an interesting and diverse ecosystem.

There were plenty of opportunities to have done a third dive. Rosia Bay boasts wrecks, cannonballs, amphora and anchors dating back to Roman times as well as lots of life. The Seven Sisters, a group of pinnacles on the north side of Rosia Bay, is equally as good. However, as my normal long-weekend package would have been two dives a day, I stuck to that.

The next day I booked up with Dive Charters Gibraltar to do some of the sites that needed to be accessed by boat. The dive time was not until the middle of the afternoon and I could have very easily slipped in a couple of cheeky shore dives in the morning had I thought about it and just hired some tanks and weights - oh well!

First dive was on the SS Excellent. I dived this many years ago and while penetration is no longer recommended due to internal collapse, it is still an impressive wreck. She is upside down in 28m of water and visibility can be variable, but as you would expect from a wreck that has been on the bottom since 1888, she is covered in life. We then moved onto the SS Roslyn, again a wreck that I dived many years ago. This wreck is a real treat. Covered in soft and hard corals, it generally has excellent visibility and is great for photography. Quite simply, it was a really fantastic dive.

I returned to my accommodation to reflect on the trip. I had done two great days of diving, in warm water, out of season and with some good visibility. Admittedly, had I been in Porthkerry or somewhere similar, I would probably have driven back after the second day of diving, which was not possible as I was flying, so I lost a day. Adding everything up it had cost me more to go to Gibraltar, but not that much more, and I still think it was pretty good value. As a destination for a short break, especially outside of the UK dive season, it offers some excellent dives and is a refreshing change. Why not give it a try? ■

"After soaking up a few rays during the surface interval, and thinking to myself 'they are not doing that in Portland at this time of year', we prepared for the second dive"



TARIFA

If you look the Mediterranean Sea on Google Earth, you can see a narrow gap at its entrance. Everything that flows in and out of the Mediterranean comes through here, like some marine highway between the European and African Continents. This is the point where the wild Atlantic meets the sub-tropical Mediterranean.

Driving westward from Spain, and bypassing Gibraltar, you eventually come to a small town called Tarifa. It is well known among windsurfers and kitesurfers as it is one of the windiest places in Europe. Easterly winds travel across the Atlantic and with nothing to slow them down, they hit land at Tarifa with some severity. Not an ideal place to go diving, you might think; you would be wrong. This convergence of the Atlantic and the Mediterranean is extraordinary. Cold water currents conjoin with warmer waters creating a mix of marine ecosystems and offering some exceptional diving. I travelled there from the Costa del Sol, a journey of around one-and-a-half hours. Arriving at the tiny harbour of Tarifa, the first thing you notice (apart from the wind) is that this place is really busy. It is the main ferry point for the crossing across the strait to Morocco and there is an amusing mix of expensive 4x4 desert vehicles and their rather wealthy occupants, and backpackers dressed in throwbacks from the 1960s waiting to get on board. Anyway, I was here for the diving.

In spite of the strong wind, we were still able to go out diving due to the prominent headland that juts out into the Atlantic tempest towards Africa, only 13km away, offering some degree of protection. Known as the Isla de las Palomas, it became attached to the mainland some years ago during land reclamation.

First dive was on a site known as Las Calderas - quite literally, The Boilers. It is so named because of the three huge boilers that lay around the reef, remnants of a shipwreck that has perched itself on top of the reef. Beginning the dive you enter into a tunnel that has been formed by the hull of the wreck as it straddles two adjacent reefs, providing an eerie swim-through experience. Torpedo rays and morays are in abundance as are orange star corals. These beautiful corals are indigenous to the area and add incredible colour to the wreck and rocks. As we dropped to 18m to swim under the wreck, you could feel the Atlantic thermoclines as the temperature dropped to 13 degrees C. You could also see the haloclines as water of different salinity mixed together.

We moved around the coastline to our next dive site, Las Calles - The Streets. No wrecks this time, but quite amazing marine life. Lobster, marbled morays, jacks, grouper, several species of nudibranch, sunfish and stingrays; even pilot whales are seen on dives sometimes. Also known as the Labyrinths, the site has so many gullies and canyons that at times it is easy to become disorientated.

Further to the east is the wreck of the paddle steamer San Andres. This is a beautiful dive in 30m of water and although much of it has been destroyed after 150 years, the paddle wheels can still be seen emerging from the sand. It is covered in marine life and at the right time of year sunfish are everywhere. Although I couldn't spend a week in Tarifa, it does have some great diving and is well worth a visit. So if you are visiting the Costa del Sol, or Gibraltar, you should definitely put it on your 'to do' list.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW GIBRALTAR



WHERE IS IT?

Gibraltar lies at the tip of Spain at the entrance to the Mediterranean.

HOW TO GET THERE

Ryanair and Easyjet and Monarch all run regular and cheap flights to Malaga. If you want to fly into Gibraltar, Easyjet and Monarch run daily flights in and out. Getting around once you are there is easier if you have a car and, due to the large amount of competition, they are relatively inexpensive.

WHEN TO GO

To get the best deals, go out of season.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A valid passport with six months until expiry.

CURRENCY

Sterling (Euro in Spain).

WHERE TO EAT AND MEET

There are many bars and restaurants in Gibraltar for an apres-dive beer and some food.

VERDICT

Gibraltar is a great destination for diving all year around, but especially out of season when there is not much going on around the UK.

DIVE CHARTERS

GIBRALTAR



PADI IDC Course
November 10th - 19th 2015

Only 2½ hours from 7 UK airports
Over 30 wrecks, reefs & pinnacles
PADI courses
Boat diving & shore diving
VAT free dive kit



Marina Bay Ocean Village, Gibraltar
www.divegib.gi Tel: +350 200 45649



LETTERS

HAVE YOU GOT A STORY TO SHARE?

The author of our star letter will win a £50 voucher to spend on Miflex Hoses and associated products. So what are you waiting for? Email us. letters@sportdiver.co.uk

SPONSORED BY **miflex** hoses
dedicated to quality



STAR LETTER

Giving something back

I have recently enjoyed a trip to the Red Sea with Blue O Two on their Voyager boat. This trip had a conservation theme as, during the trip, we did a number of reef clean-up dives and attended some reef conservation presentations in the afternoons. In doing this trip, I felt I aided the underwater world in recovering from the damage that human kind continues to do to it, along with learning about the coral reefs.

Are there other diver operators/centres that operate similar conservation-based diving trips? I am sure that there are lots of divers that would be interested in these types of trips. Could some examples be covered in a feature in Sport Diver?

Thanks and happy diving!

Matt Shippam (PADI MSD and Sport Diver subscriber), via email

Ed: We have covered trips that involve participants giving something back to nature by working alongside conservationists and scientists - we recently had a piece on a coral nursery in Thailand, for instance - but we are always keen to hear from people who have been on trips such as yours.



MIFLEX HOSES

For more information, or
to view the full range of
Miflex products visit
www.miflexhoses.co.uk



Safety comes first

I have waited just to see if anyone mentioned anything about Eli Reid's letter, but they have not so I thought I would. PADI talk about safety many times, so I was so surprised no one has picked up on Mr Reid's letter. He clearly states he has not dived for almost a year, then he just goes to Stoney Cove to 30m with no refresher course or anything really! Then he admits he is off to the coast in a couple of weeks time. I just do not get it - every diver should be responsible and safe and know they have to do a refresher if they have not dived within six months. I just find it unbelievable someone would just go to Stoney and go to 30m - in fact, dive at all - when they have not dived for nearly a year. We talk about safety not doing stupid things, etc, and I just am amazed at Mr Reid.

Lee Evans, via email

He must be mad!

Like Miranda Krestovnikoff, CCRs have always filled me with dread, and so I was totally amazed and scared witless in equal measure by Stuart Philpott's article in the April issue in which he did five trydives in as many days on five different closed-circuit rebreathers in Lanzarote. Just the thought of trydiving one CCR leaves me with goose-bumps and I can't even imagine tackling five! However, reading about someone - admittedly a highly skilled tech diver who is qualified on CCR already - jumping in at the deep end to sample so many different units has inspired me to keep an eye out for the chance to do a trydive on one of the recreational units, like the Hollis Explorer eSCR or the Poseidon SE7EN CCR, and maybe put my irrational fears to rest once and for all!

Fred Rankin, via email

Ready to jump in

Cold water. Brrr... Just the thought of clambering into a cumbersome drysuit, pulling on a thick hood and gloves, loading up with lead weights and stumbling into chilly green water leaves me... well... cold! But I realised after reading the April issue that I am not the only one who doesn't like cold water. Even the Editor's wife is not a fan of diving off our shores! But Penney's exploits in the depths of Vivian in her test drysuit has got me thinking that I should maybe at least give it a go. You never know, perhaps I will find that it isn't as bad as I am imagining and actually enjoy myself! Either that or it will cement my reputation as a woosy warm-water diver! I will let you know how I get on this summer!

Valerie Shore, via email

HSE Scuba Courses



unrivalled....



Book Now &
Get a FREE
Commercial
Dive Suit

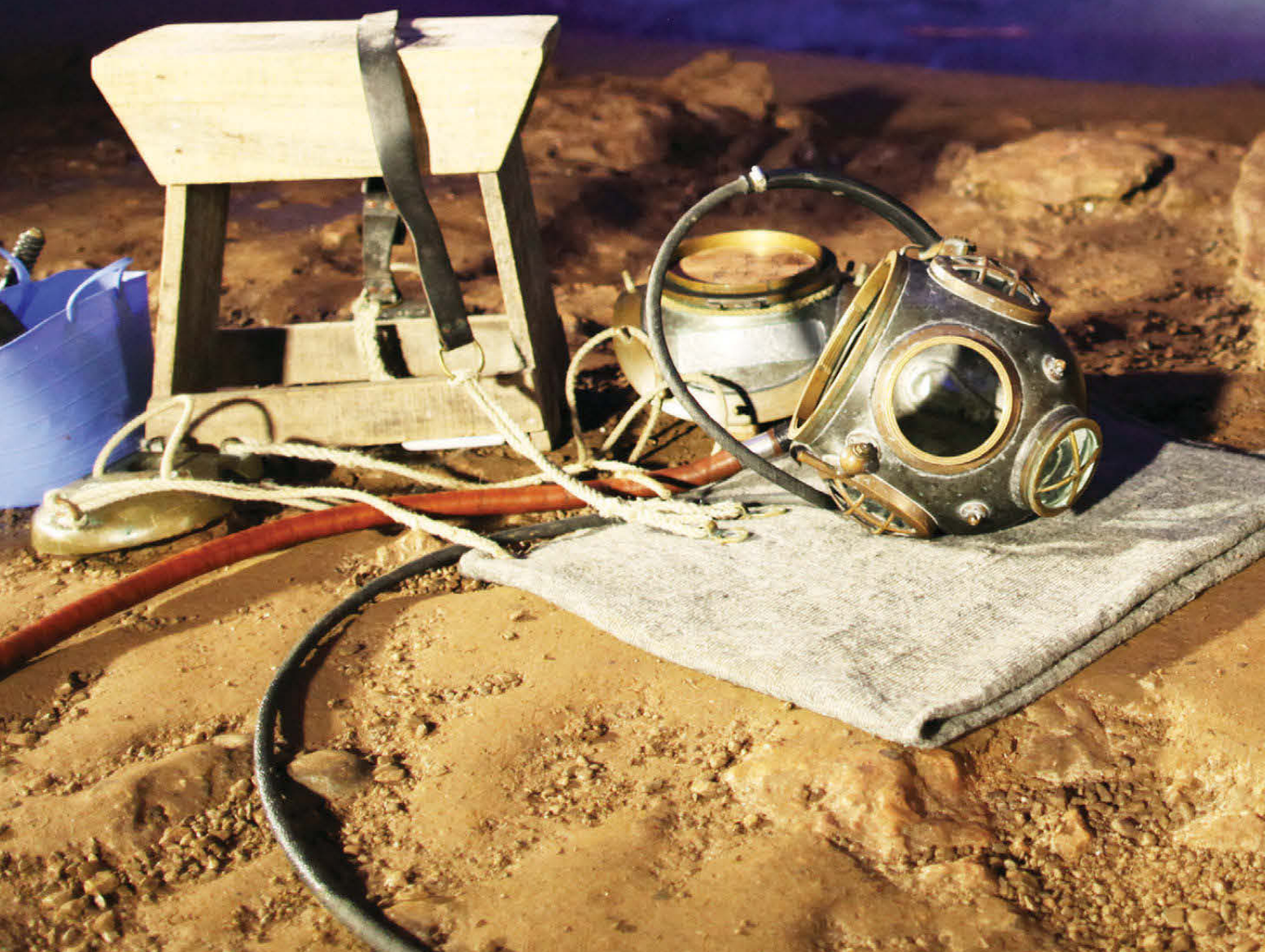
**Courses Run Every Month
Includes:
First aid at Work
O2 Provider
Chamber Dive**

**Port Gallanach
Oban - Scotland - PA34 4QH
Telephone: 01631 566088
Freephone: 0800 542 8181
Fax: 01631 564 142
Email: info@puffin.org.uk
Web: www.puffin.org.uk**

HARDHAT *herdies*

Who better than diving adventurer **ANDY TORBET** to recreate a cave dive from the 1930s in full standard dress for the BBC, but as he explains, even he wasn't ready for the challenges involved in pulling it off

Photographs by PETE MILLS AND RICHARD STEVENSON







YS-03

Underwater Strobe



**SIMPLE DS-TTL
CONTROL ONLY**

**TURN ON
AND SHOOT**

**IT'S AS EASY
AS THAT!**

PACKAGE AVAILABLE

CAMERA-HOUSING NOT INCLUDED

WWW.SEA-SEA.COM

SEA&SEA
THE UNDERWATER IMAGING COMPANY

Pinnacle

with MERINO WOOL LINING

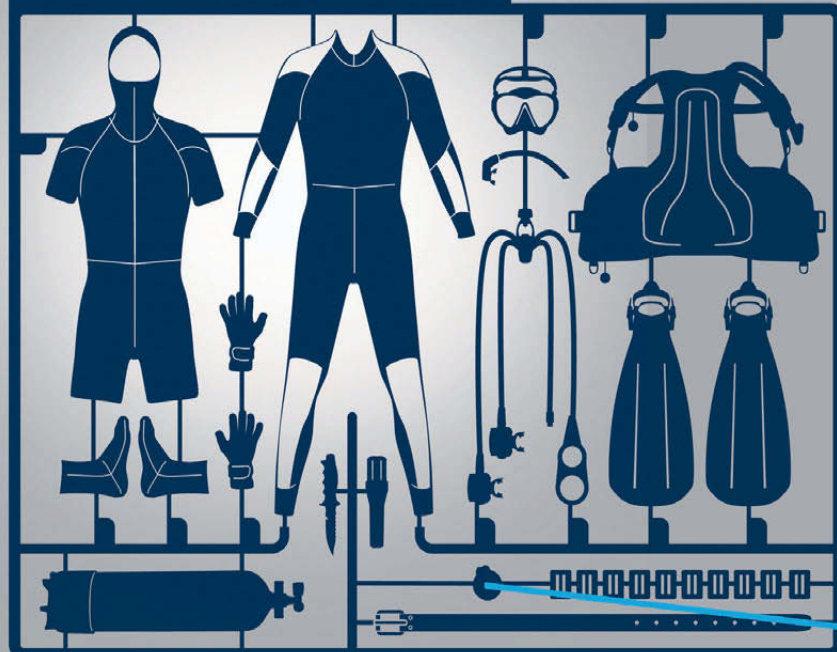


THE WARMEST AND MOST COMFORTABLE SUIT LINING
EVER DEvised. PINNACLE'S MISSION IS TO PROVIDE
DISCERNING DIVERS WITH THE WARMEST, MOST
COMFORTABLE THERMAL PROTECTION POSSIBLE.

WWW.SEA-SEA.COM

Pinnacle

WHAT MAKES A COMPLETE DIVER?



DIVE MASTER INSURANCE

Simple, Secure and Affordable

20%
Online Discount

BUY ONLINE

www.divemasterinsurance.com

CALL

01702 476902



The first official cave dive in Britain was not at Wookey Hole, but at its less-famous sibling, Swildons Hole, in 1934. However, the Swildons dive was relatively unsuccessful and used what was pretty much a length of garden hose. The first cave dive using actual diving equipment to successfully penetrate into the subterranean system was at Wookey in 1935. That dive in Wookey - perhaps the UK's most-famous cave, certainly in diving - captured the imagination and has fuelled and inspired British caver divers for decades.

Some initial confusion between the production company and some contributors meant that the 1934 dive in Swildons and the 1935 dive in Wookey were confused, and 2014 was thought to be the centenary of the Wookey dive. When the error was spotted and the BBC informed, they nevertheless decided the story was of such interest and value we should pursue it regardless of 2014 only being the 99th anniversary.

So it was, on behalf of The One Show, on a cold and dark Wednesday in January, I found myself about to take my first dive into Wookey Hole in what was, by today's standards, arguably the worst diving attire for cave exploration imaginable.

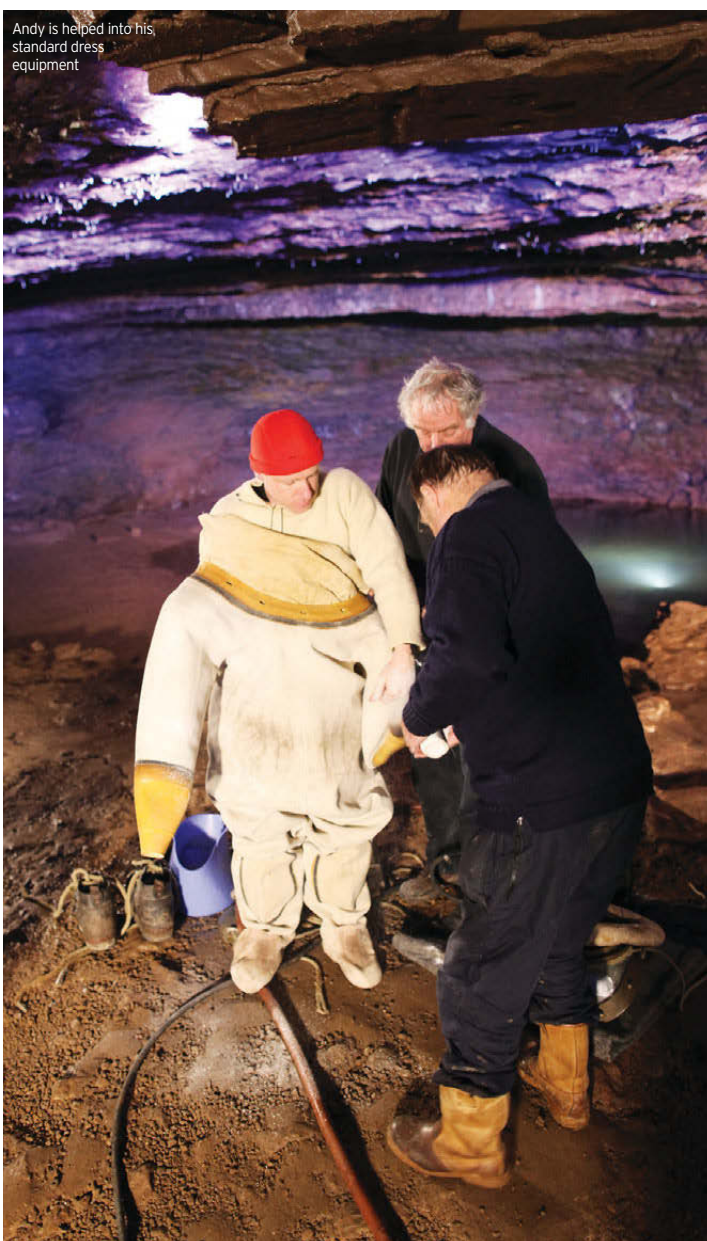
The film was not only going to tell the story of the ground-breaking dive. I was also going to recreate it as accurately as possible. This meant cave diving from Sump Three to Sump Four in full standard dress - the thing Victorians used to romp about the seabed in. Today buoyancy control is hammered into cave-diving students on their initial course. To descend into the silty tunnel floor will cause plumes of visibility-stealing clouds, make progress and exiting more difficult and potentially lead to disaster should you lose your way. On top of the micro-control on your position in the water column, a number of different finning techniques can also be employed to minimise disturbance of the sediment, as well as sleek systems to carry equipment in the most-streamlined and low-profile fashion. These considerations were not high on the list of priorities of your average sub-aquatic Victorian, it would appear...

The suit itself came from the Historic Diving Society (HDS) and dated back in design to the Victorian era but was, in fact, built in circa-1930. With the heavy boots, neck weights and brass helmet, the entire suit weighed in at 80kg. To put that in context, I weigh about 80kg - and I'm not a light chap. Obviously it's infeasible to dress yourself after you've passed the stage of donning the woollen undergarments and vulcanised rubber suit (which possesses the most-indestructible wrist seals I've ever encountered... near impossible to get on by yourself, but bomb-proof nevertheless), so I sat on a replica wooden stool being fussed over by two members of the Society. It's not a comfortable suit to wear on dry land - the weight is mostly held in the helmet and forces you to slump and support the weight at an uncomfortable angle. The air supply was fed into the helmet by a hand pump, the bellows compressing and expanding by the constant, regular turning of two handles. These were actually 'manned' by two of the ladies from the HDS, of whom I made sure to confirm that this was not their first rodeo before I was happy about the planned dive. Turning a wheel, a simple task, has never been so important.

I felt comfortable as the helmet went on and was twisted a quarter turn to screw it tight in place. I did a lot of hard-hat diving in the Forces, as well as spending more than half my working dives in a full-face mask. I have heard people complain they find the helmet claustrophobic, but I have to confess to feeling the opposite. I think other divers may find the same reaction. With a thick hood, reg and a mask closing in our field of vision, having a clutter-free head and windows front, top and on both sides allows a remarkable sense of liberation. Of course, if you want to view those areas of the outside world between windows, you need to turn



Plaque marks the entry point of the pioneering divers



"These considerations were not high on the list of priorities of your average sub-aquatic Victorian, it would appear..."

Andy preparing to do a piece to camera in the depths of the cave



your entire body in order to turn the fixed brass helm.

However, for all the psychological comfort of the helmet inside, it - and the rest of the suit - was still working with gravity to drag me to the floor. I needed the assistance of two helpers just to stand. And then came the trickiest bit of the whole operation - getting into the water.

When I've used this equipment in the past, it's been in fairly benign, clear waters and I have entered by climbing down a ladder. This may seem more awkward than a straight walk in, but the solid structure and four points of contact makes it steady and simple. The bank leading into the waters of Sump Three are made up of soft, slick, uneven mud. The soles of the boots are flat, rigid and fashioned from mirror-smooth brass - none of which lends them much in the way of grip. A fall could easily cause injury but, more importantly, damage the kit. So on top of breaking rare and expensive pieces of our diving history, I'd cause the whole shoot to be cancelled. It was now, as I started the walk, I realised it's very hard to look down.

After making it to the water's edge, with only a couple of near-misses and a constant feeling of unease, I was passed to our surface support in his drysuit so he could help me in the rest of the way. We all know the feeling of wading into water in heavy kit - every step increases the amount of weight the water supports. By the time I was in just above my knee, I fell forward, the move instigated by a slip, but I did nothing to counteract it and welcomed the sensation of near-weightlessness as the pressure came off my cervical spine.

Once underwater the suit becomes astonishingly comfortable. It is flexible and incredibly warm. The water was about 6 degrees Celsius, but the pressurised air being pumped through and the thick woollen undersuit meant I was soon sweating with little exertion. I even wore no gloves to mimic the conditions of those divers back in 1935. Forward

Ready to begin the epic dive challenge





UNBELIEVABLE
PRICES

EXPLORER

SPORT REBREATHING

DIVE DIFFERENTLY

HOLLIS EXPLORER

Fully inclusive course.

Includes diving, training, gases
and any fees ... No hidden extras.

Want to buy an Explorer?
Contact us for the best
deal in Europe.



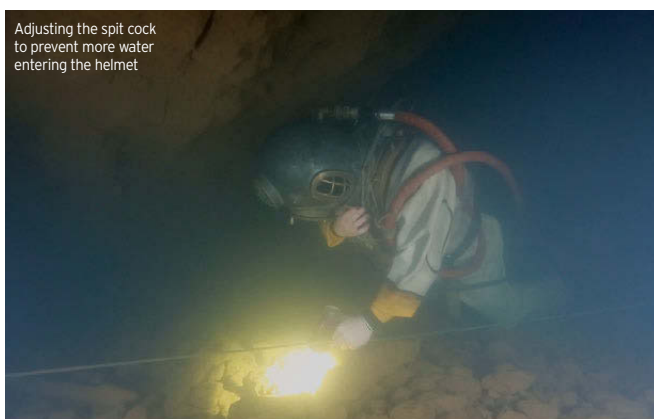
techwise

Malta's Number 1 Technical Diving Facility
(00356) 2138 4453
info@techwise.com.mt
www.techwise.com.mt

Andy peers out of the standard dress helmet



Adjusting the spit cock to prevent more water entering the helmet



Old-school dive light



"When they got no reply they realised my lack of conversation had something to do with the fact my mouth was now underwater"

movement is simply a matter of pitching yourself forward and walking. Clearly this disturbed a lot of mud from the pool bed and myself and my underwater cameraman soon realised that this would be a one-shot deal. We could film my entry and passage through to Sump Four in reasonable visibility, but my progress would eliminate the chance of a second pass, at least one which could be captured on film. But that was not the most-immediate concern. There was water entering the helmet... quite a lot of water.

Initially when I reported it through the authentic communication cable which snaked along my air-hose, I was told a little ingress is normal. When they got no reply they realised my lack of conversation had something to do with the fact my mouth was now underwater. In fact, I was laying face down on the cave floor so although the helmet was only half full, it meant my entire face was in that half, so breathing became a little tricky. Fortunately, my ears were in the dry half and I heard the explanation and remedy fed down the phone from the topside crew. There is a valve on these helmets called a Spit-Cock. The idea is that when the inside of the glass plate starts to fog up, a diver can open the Spit-Cock, slurp a little water as it dribbles in and spit it over the glass to clear their vision. If this is left open, even slightly, water pours in and once the valve opening itself is under this water, it's difficult to work out where the leak actually is. So with the valve tightened, I was still left with half a helmet of water and no-one wants that. Unfortunately, the suit is a closed system so the only place to clear the helmet is... into the suit. I grabbed a handful of rubber around my chest, pulled out and stood up and was rewarded with a cool feeling of about four or five pints of ice-cold water washing down to my boots.

With that little obstacle overcome, I struggled against the flow of the underground river, which was difficult in the suit, and needed to pull myself up the fixed line put in by previous cave divers. Luckily this flow was helping to clear some of the sediment I was kicking up. I reached the entrance to the underwater passage and ducked low. I crawled along, still pulling on the line and conscious not to grind the antique, and valuable, helmet along the cave roof. You are in an overhead environment, in less-than-perfect visibility and with no real means of self rescue (other than 'running' back out) or assistance by the cameraman - an offer of his octopus would have had little practical use. And yet I felt secure. The robust weight of the suit feels like a full-plate suit of armour and thoughts of vulnerability scatter.

I dipped my right shoulder and spun my body to the left so I could turn my head to look through the left-side window up at the cave ceiling. It began to gradually slope upwards and I crawled on to enter the pool of Sump Four.

But it was not to be. I heard the crew back at Sump Three call through "you have no more hose". There is very little of the original hose left today and the 60 feet the Historic Diving Society possesses was not enough. I was perhaps ten feet from my goal of surfacing in Sump Four, as Balcombe had in 1935. Although a shallow cave dive with little penetration, it had been one of my most-memorable and gave me renewed respect for the achievements of the original team who ventured into the blackness in imperfect equipment with no idea what lay beyond. But then answering the unknown was what drove them. And today, the kit may have changed, but the motivation for those of us who explore new sites, caves or wrecks remains the same - to see what lies beyond the next hill. ■



Get changed, cover up and stay warm in the World's warmest and most advanced change robe.

#dryrobe



SUPPLIER TO:

ROYAL
LIFE SAVING
SOCIETY UK
www.rlssorg.uk

**Get changed.
Stay warm.**

Available in original short sleeve and the NEW long sleeve design.



Sport Diver

©PADI THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PADI DIVING SOCIETY

"Should be in every divers or outdoor enthusiasts kitbag."

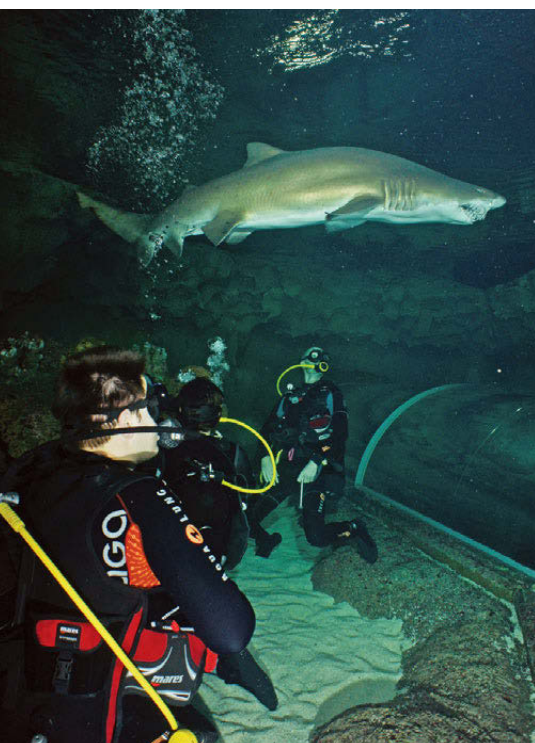


visit our online store at www.dryrobe.com

#nevergetcold

TALES FROM THE TANK

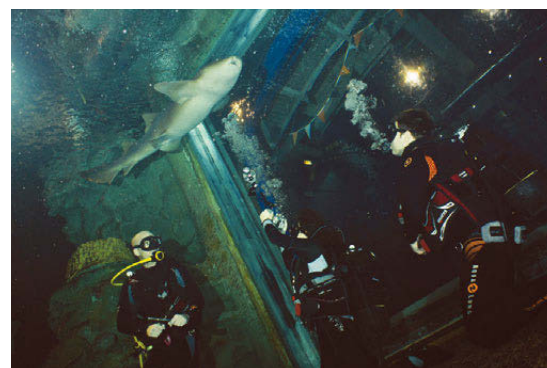
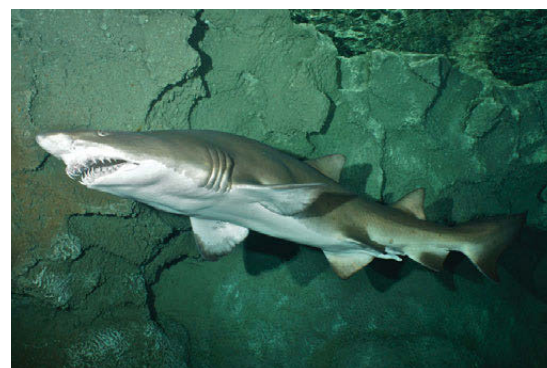
By MATT MARTIN, DIVE OFFICER, BLUE PLANET AQUARIUM



Public aquaria are remarkable attractions, providing windows into the sea and close encounters with animals from all over the world. Customer feedback has been shown to have a 100 percent successful conversion rate for divers from fear to care after experiencing encounters with sharks. To have an equivalent wild encounter with all our species housed in our main tank would cost potentially tens of thousands of pounds, and multiple diving trips to achieve, so for the individual, an aquarium dive represents a cost- and time-efficient method of gaining insight and practice of being up close to the large predators. Blue Planet Aquarium is the number-one PADI dive centre in the UK for conducting the DSD programme. Every year, we introduce approximately 1,000 new divers to our sharks and, in doing so, allow our new divers to ask different questions of themselves and their relationship with the oceans and its scariest inhabitants. We also exhibit our species to 250,000 visitors each year. This opportunity for members of the public to view sharks and divers in close proximity, and to view the sharks in captivity as ambassadors for their wild relations, is crucial. The social media-fuelled epidemic of amateur photography helps disseminate imagery of sharks and divers together, a definite positive for shark conservation. ■

"We will conserve only what we will love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught"

B. Dioums



BLUE PLANET AQUARIUM, Longlooms Road, Cheshire Oaks, Cheshire, CH65 9LF
Tel: 0151 357 8804 | Email: info@blueplanetaquarium.co.uk | Website: www.blueplanetaquarium.co.uk



Buddy Dive
RESORT



Bonaire



NICK TROUBETZKOY'S
ANSE CHASTANET
ST. LUCIA



BAY ISLANDS YACHT CHARTERS



Kids Sea Camp™

"GIVE THEM A
WEEK THEY WILL
REMEMBER FOREVER."

PRESENTING THE WORLD'S BEST FAMILY DIVE VACATIONS

YAP
PALAU
GRAND CAYMAN
BONAIRE
UTILA
COSTA RICA
ST. LUCIA
FIJI
AUSTRALIA
GRENADA
ROATAN
GALAPAGOS
ST. VINCENT



FAMILY DIVE ADVENTURES

WWW.FAMILYDIVERS.COM 803-419-2556 EMAIL:DIVE@FAMILYDIVERS.COM

LAND OF THE DRAGON

WILL HARRISON dives Komodo National Park, a place as famous for its dragons as its diving, from the recently launched, Brit-run liveaboard, Wunderpus

Photographs by **WILL HARRISON**







BLUE MARLIN DIVE KOMODO

Liveaboard • Dedicated Course Day Boat
Advanced Only Speedboat • Accommodation
Restaurant • CCR Friendly

**Komodo National Park's ONLY
100% A.W.A.R.E. PADI 5 Star Resort**

www.blumarlinkomodo.com | info@blumarlinkomodo.com

Dive in Komodo with



Wunderpus is a traditional Phinisi style vessel but with all the modern conveniences and safety features. Designed to take maximum of eight guests in style and comfort to some of the best dive sites on the planet.

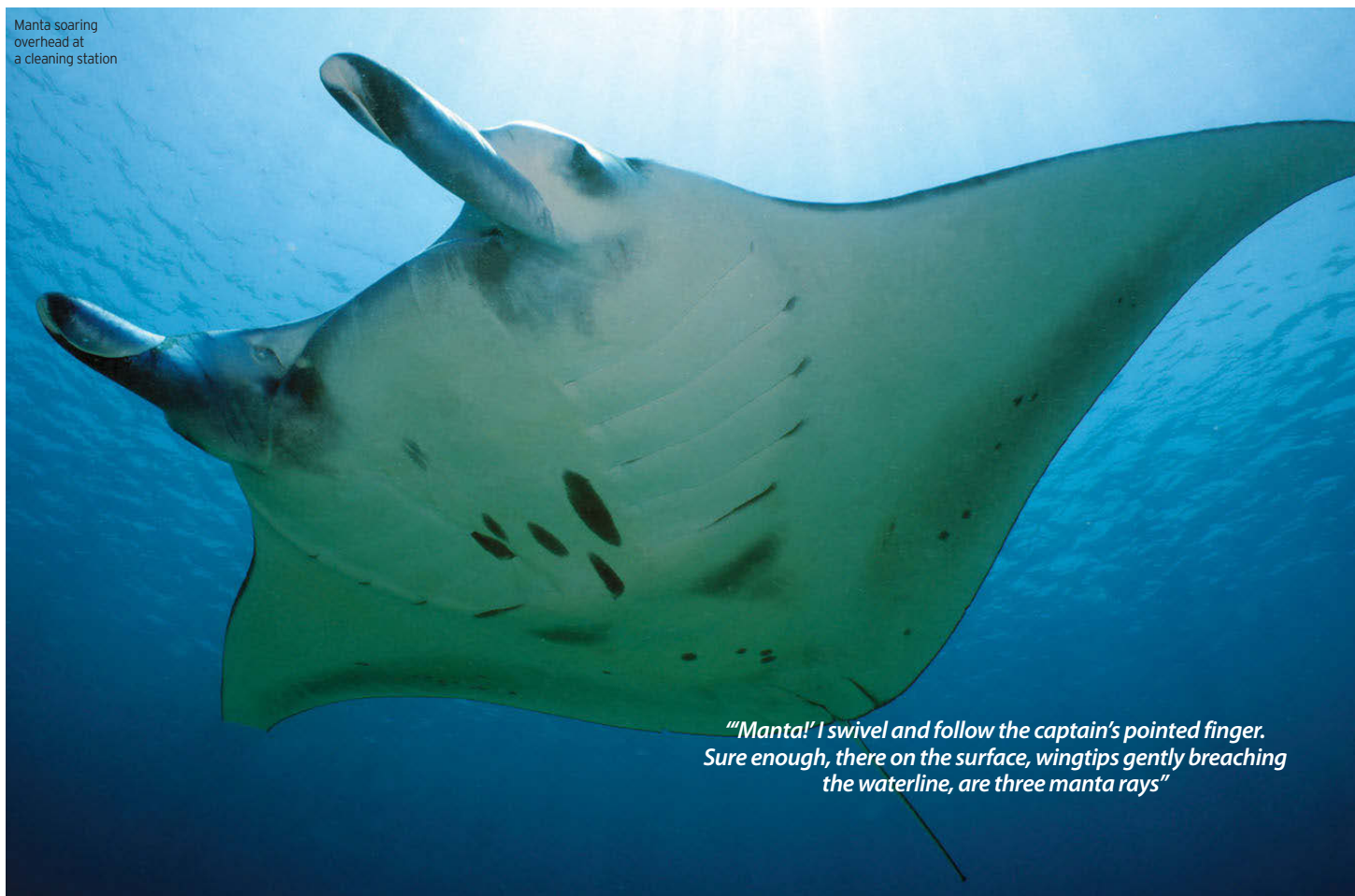
Wunderpus offers regular Scheduled Trips and is also ideally suited to Private Charters by families, groups of friends and diving clubs

Come and join us for the adventure of a lifetime.

ed@wunderpusliveaboard.com
www.wunderpusliveaboard.com



Manta soaring overhead at a cleaning station



"Manta!" I swivel and follow the captain's pointed finger. Sure enough, there on the surface, wingtips gently breaching the waterline, are three manta rays"

It is dry; the islands of Komodo National Park have not seen rain for months. Hardy trees and shrubs cling to browned hillsides, the sparseness with which they cover the slopes indicative of the battle that goes on below ground, where shallow, sprawling root systems compete for coverage - and wait for the rain. It is a scene reminiscent of Portugal or Spain in late summertime, when the ground is thirsty and the sky a light, hazy blue. When the rains come, the landscape will transform: brown to green, Southern Europe to Scotland. Arriving from the evergreen island of Bali - and having recently visited both Borneo and Lombok - the barrenness is arresting. But I am to quickly learn that the islands of Komodo National Park are not typical of the Indonesian archipelago of which they are a part - not in terms of geography, and certainly not in terms of life below the waterline.

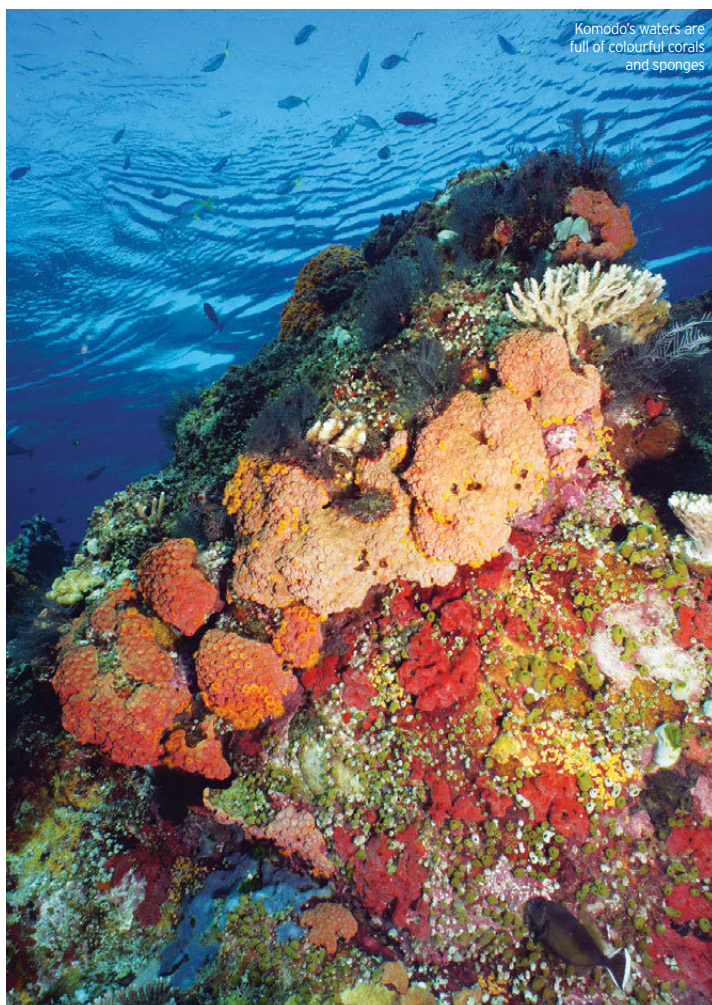
Ed Statham knows these waters well. Originally from Cheshire, his tale is not an uncommon one among dive centre and liveaboard owners: he left the UK on holiday and never returned. It was on only his second day of diving in Komodo that Ed decided to stay long-term and open a dive centre. For more than three years he ran a successful land-based centre, logging thousands of dives in what he believes to be one of the best and most-challenging dive destinations on the planet.

In 2012 he started building Wunderpus, an Indonesian phinisi. The boat was built using skilled local tradesman, traditional methods and the best materials available. Wunderpus is unique in that she is the first boat of her type and size to be built in Komodo - most phinisi boats are built in Bira, Sulawesi. She was completed in June 2014. Home for Ed is now the Flores Sea or, more specifically, the bays and straits of Ruteng, Rintja and, of course, Komodo itself. It is a life lived beneath the sails, a life of sunrises and sunsets.



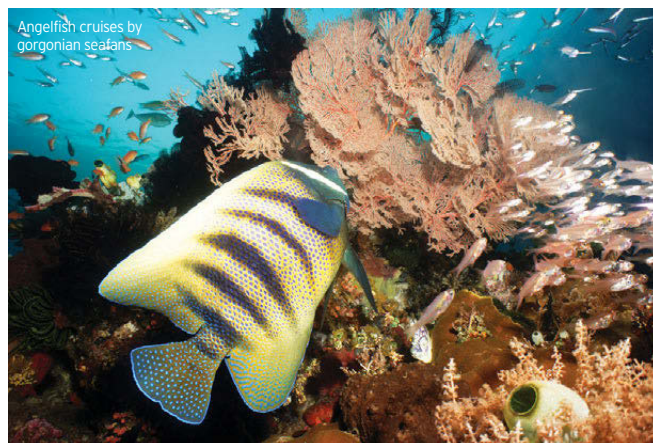
The Wunderpus nears land for an overnight stop

Ed and I spend the first evening enjoying dinner on deck, the sounds of overlapping calls to prayer emanating from the dusty town of Labuan Bajo, off which we are still moored. The conversation, naturally, focuses on diving. Ed has many a tale to tell and his deep understanding and knowledge of the local area is evident. He is both shocked and delighted when I tell him I have never seen a manta ray - shocked because of all the many wonderful places I have visited, he cannot comprehend that I have not crossed paths with one of the winged creatures, and delighted because he knows what the week ahead has in store for me. He promises I'll see a manta during the trip. That's right, folks - promises.



Komodo's waters are full of colourful corals and sponges

"It is worth dispelling the myth that divers have to be experienced to dive Komodo National Park"



Angelfish cruises by gorgonian sea fans



Gigantic pufferfish posing for the camera

We're no more than two minutes into our RIB ride out to the first dive site, Sebayur Kecil, when the call goes up: 'Manta!' I swivel and follow the captain's pointed finger. Sure enough, there on the surface, wingtips gently breaching the waterline, are three manta rays. Ed throws a knowing nod in my direction before giving the signal to slowly motor a little closer. We hurriedly don our gear and drop in. The rays don't hang around too long, perhaps five minutes. The experience is incredible. The serenity with which the trio move is breathtaking, dancing shadows in the blue.

As we come toward the end of our second dive, at a site called Mawan Island, we are treated to an even-more-spectacular display. Having bimbled along a gently sloping and pretty reef for most of the dive, we arrive at a cleaning station at approximately 7m. A couple of mantas are busy getting preened and so, one by one, we dump our air and get comfy on a nearby patch of sand. We spend 20 minutes in the same spot as more mantas swoop in for a clean, or hover waiting for their turn. When the time comes to head up, we creep up a metre or two and complete our safety stop in the same place - with manta rays coming to within a few feet of our faces, no one is in a hurry to reach the surface. Ed is certainly living up to his manta promise, I think to myself. And then comes Manta Point...

Now, we have all dived sites such as Shark Alley, Barracuda Reef or, indeed, Manta Point. The one thing that seems to tie such places together is the wild inaccuracy of their names. Shark Alley often translates as Shark-Free Alley, and Barracuda Reef is invariably a place totally devoid of anything resembling a barracuda. I am therefore not at all surprised when, 20 minutes into our dive at Komodo's Manta Point, I am yet to see a single manta ray. I'm quite happy though - the current is absolutely ripping and I'm enjoying the ride. Then Ed, ten metres in front of me, flaps his arms. Manta Point actually has mantas! With nothing to hold onto - the seabed is flat and rubble-strewn - Ed rams his pointing-stick into the ground. The

third member of our group grabs Ed's fin. I line up to grab hers (a technique that has seen Ed hold up to five people!) but spot a small jut of rock to cling onto at the last minute. I give Ed's guns a reprieve and latch on to the seabed. Several mantas play in the current, unfazed by its power. We sit and watch. It is incredible. Some individuals come to within just a few feet, while others remain at the surface enjoying the sunshine. We dive Manta Point twice and both dives are spectacular.

Diving in Komodo National Park isn't all about manta rays, however. The reefs are alive with all manner of fish and critters, and some of the underwater topography is stunning. Dive sites such as Golden Passage, a supremely healthy reef with gorgeous corals, and Crystal Rock, a site adorned in soft corals and impossible numbers of reef fish, are truly breathtaking. Then there is Batu Bolong, where Napoleon wrasse roam above nudibranchs, shrimp and moray eels, and Pengah, a mellow site where turtles and triggerfish hang out. At Castle Rock we spot grey reef

SCUBA JUNKIETM

FUEL THE ADDICTION

SIPADAN
MABUL - KAPALAI
ALL PADI DIVE COURSES
DIVE & SNORKEL TRIPS



5STAR
INSTRUCTOR
DEVELOPMENT
CENTRE



MABUL BEACH RESORT



www.scuba-junkie.com



sharks, tuna and giant trevally. And at the Cauldron we get shot through a current-hit crevasse, waving to the turtles as we pass.

With this in mind, it is worth dispelling the myth that divers have to be experienced to dive Komodo National Park. Yes, there are certain sites that are only suitable for advanced divers - the Cauldron being one - but on the whole there are plenty of places that novice divers can jump in. Indeed, on this trip, there are two inexperienced divers - a young Ukrainian girl of perhaps ten years, and her mum.

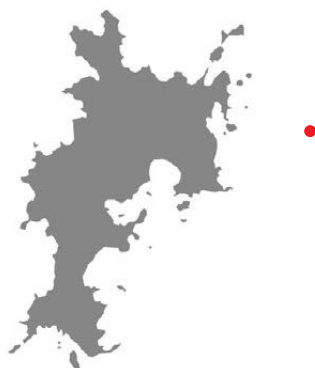
They are having a fabulous time and do not feel like they are missing out. This is, of course, down to Ed, who picks the itinerary based on the abilities of those onboard. Sites for experienced and inexperienced divers alike can be found from the same anchoring - it's just knowing where to go.

A visit to Komodo isn't complete without checking out the Komodo dragons. On the last full day of the trip Ed organises a RIB to take me ashore for a few hours. A visit to see the dragons can be as long or as

short as you want it to be, with various length walks on offer. Owing to the extreme heat and midday sun we opt for a short walk into the brush. By the time we have arranged a guide (complete with big stick) and a route, I have already seen three of these giant lizards - one small chap on the path from RIB to tourist centre, and two rather enormous individuals who have set up camp directly underneath the guides' kitchen window. I believe their lives revolve around sunbathing and waiting for scraps to magically appear from above. While the experience was, in truth, rather underwhelming, it's still a must-do for those visiting the area - they truly are a unique animal.

As I board the plane for my short-hop flight to Denpasar, Bali, I reflect on what has been perhaps my most-enjoyable liveaboard experience ever. Ed is a fantastic host and a knowledgeable guide; the Wunderpus is beautiful, comfortable and offers everything a diver could possibly ask for; the diving is stunning regardless of whether you're into the small or big stuff. It's five-star diving, from a five-star boat, with five-star service. ■

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW KOMODO



WHERE IS IT?

Komodo National Park is located in the Flores Sea, Indonesia,

HOW TO GET THERE

Labuan Bajo is the airport you need to arrive at, with flights going via Singapore or Kuala Lumpur then Denpasar in Bali.

WHEN TO VISIT

You can dive Komodo National Park all year round, but be advised that the diving does vary depending on the season.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A valid passport with six months until expiry.

CURRENCY

Indonesian Rupiah (£1 = IDR19,400)

WHERE TO EAT AND MEET

Wunderpus has a dining table on the main deck where divers congregate for meals and downtime. Ed keeps the bar well-stocked and the food is both plentiful and delicious. The upper deck has large beanbags ideal for relaxing when not in the water. Do also have a wander around Labuan Bajo (it doesn't take long) if you have a chance. There are a couple of decent bars overlooking the waterfront that are well worth a visit.

VERDICT

Wunderpus is a fabulous boat. Ed is a great guide and host. Komodo offers great diving. A fantastic trip!



**PAPUA
DIVING
RESORTS**

**RAJA AMPAT'S
PREMIUM RESORTS**

**SORIDO BAY
KRI ECO**

KRI ISLAND

WWW.PAPUA-DIVING.COM




Liveboard | Komodo, Indonesia



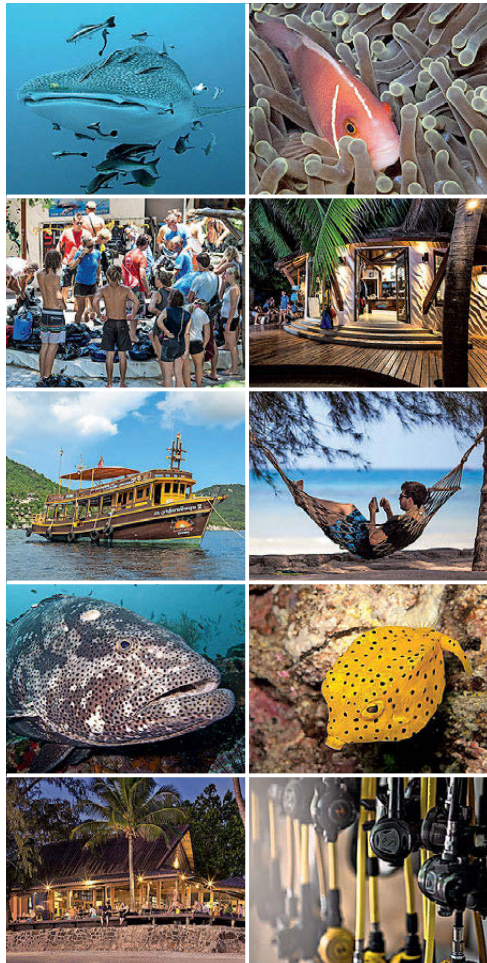


Diving or cruising | A maximum of 10 divers
Full board PLUS land activities





info@moanacruising.com
moanacruising.com



YOU'VE HEARD OF PARADISE?

**That little place we all want to go, at least for some part of our lives...
Well, we found it. And we dived it. And we've made a place for you too.**

Sairee cottage diving is Koh Taos' premier diving school. A PADI 5 Star IDC centre where you can dive the finest waters with masters of the art. Learn and dive with state of the art facilities and equipment, in the only dive centre in Koh Tao to hold the 'Pure Air' award by Bauer compressors. Whether it's instructor courses, beginner classes or specialties, we have the course for you.



www.saireecottagediving.com
mail: info@saireecottagediving.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/SaireeCottageDivingKohTao>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/Diving_KohTao

Blog: <http://blog.saireecottagediving.com/>



Life's short. Make every dive count.



SPORT DIVER AWARDS

Sponsored by Wakatobi Dive Resort  **wakatobi**

Nominate your favourite companies and people to be in with the chance of winning the trip of a lifetime to the luxurious Wakatobi Dive Resort and Pelagic liveaboard

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

The UK scuba industry's biggest magazine is once again offering you the opportunity to acknowledge all you deem worthy. There is a variety of categories covering all aspects of diving. Quite simply, we think it is important that those companies and people who provide great products and/or services deserve a mention for making our sport what it is.

BEST MANUFACTURER

Quality equipment can make all the difference to a dive. Is there a manufacturer you think churns out unparalleled gear time after time? If there is, let us know, because we feel such folk should be recognised for the benefits they bring to the diving community.

BEST TOUR OPERATOR

Have you had the ultimate dive experience recently? Tour operators obviously play an integral part in making our dive holidays what they are, and this is your opportunity to the tip the proverbial hat to those you deem to be truly outstanding.

BEST LIVEABOARD

The quality of a liveaboard can make or break a trip. Generally home for at least a week, it is important customers feel comfortable and looked after. If you've stayed on a particularly well-run boat, with great staff and a fabulous itinerary, why not let the dive community know about it by casting a vote?

BEST UK DIVE CENTRE

Here at Sport Diver we love UK diving and get in the water as much as possible. Our coastline (and interior) is littered with quality centres offering fantastic local diving and dive trips. If you think there's one centre that trumps the rest, now's the time to give it a shout-out.



BEST OVERSEAS DIVE CENTRE

The overseas dive market is hugely competitive, particularly in world-renowned hotspots such as the Red Sea's Sharm el Sheikh. It is awards such as this that allow the truly exceptional dive centres to stand out from the crowd, thrive, and continue to offer such wonderful service to the diving community.

BEST RETAILER

Which such an array of diving gear on the market, a well-stocked and informative retailer can be the difference between money well spent and money wasted. Diving's not the cheapest of sports, so it's essential you get your decisions right. Is there a retailer you think offers an unparalleled level of product range and service quality?

MOST INNOVATIVE PRODUCT

Select your favourite bit of kit from an array of products from the major manufacturers, including Scubapro, Aqualung, Oceanic, Apeks, Hollis and Fourth Element.

BEST PADI INSTRUCTOR

Completing a PADI course, whether it is your Open Water or your Instructorship, takes time and effort. Our teachers ultimately have a huge impact on both whether or not we pass and our competence as a diver beyond that. Excellent teachers should be acknowledged for the good of the sport, and this is your



chance to rave about someone deserving.

BEST DESTINATION

Where have you been in the last 12 months? Was there a particular destination that blew you away? Were you lucky enough to experience the dive destination of all dive destinations? If so, let us know where it is!

DO YOU THINK YOU ARE WORTHY OF A VOTE?

Well, why not ask your clients to vote for you? Download the Sport Diver Awards logo from the Sport Diver website, embed it with the URL: www.sportdiver.co.uk/vote at the bottom of your email and, hey presto, the votes will come flooding in!

GET VOTING!

Voting closes on 1 October, 2015. You can cast your vote by visiting www.sportdiver.co.uk/vote. Please visit the Sport Diver website for full terms and conditions - and remember, there is a trip to Southeast Asia just waiting to be claimed! ■

DIVE

the **Red Sea** and the **Maldives**



RED SEA **Liveaboards**

Emperor Elite
Emperor Superior
Emperor Asmaa
FREE Nitrox on all

Resort dive centres

El Gouna
Hamata
Marsa Alam x 3
Sharm El Sheikh

MALDIVES **Liveaboards**

Emperor Voyager
Emperor Atoll
FREE Nitrox on all

Resort dive centres

Casa Mia

*See our
Whale Shark &
Manta Ray Special*

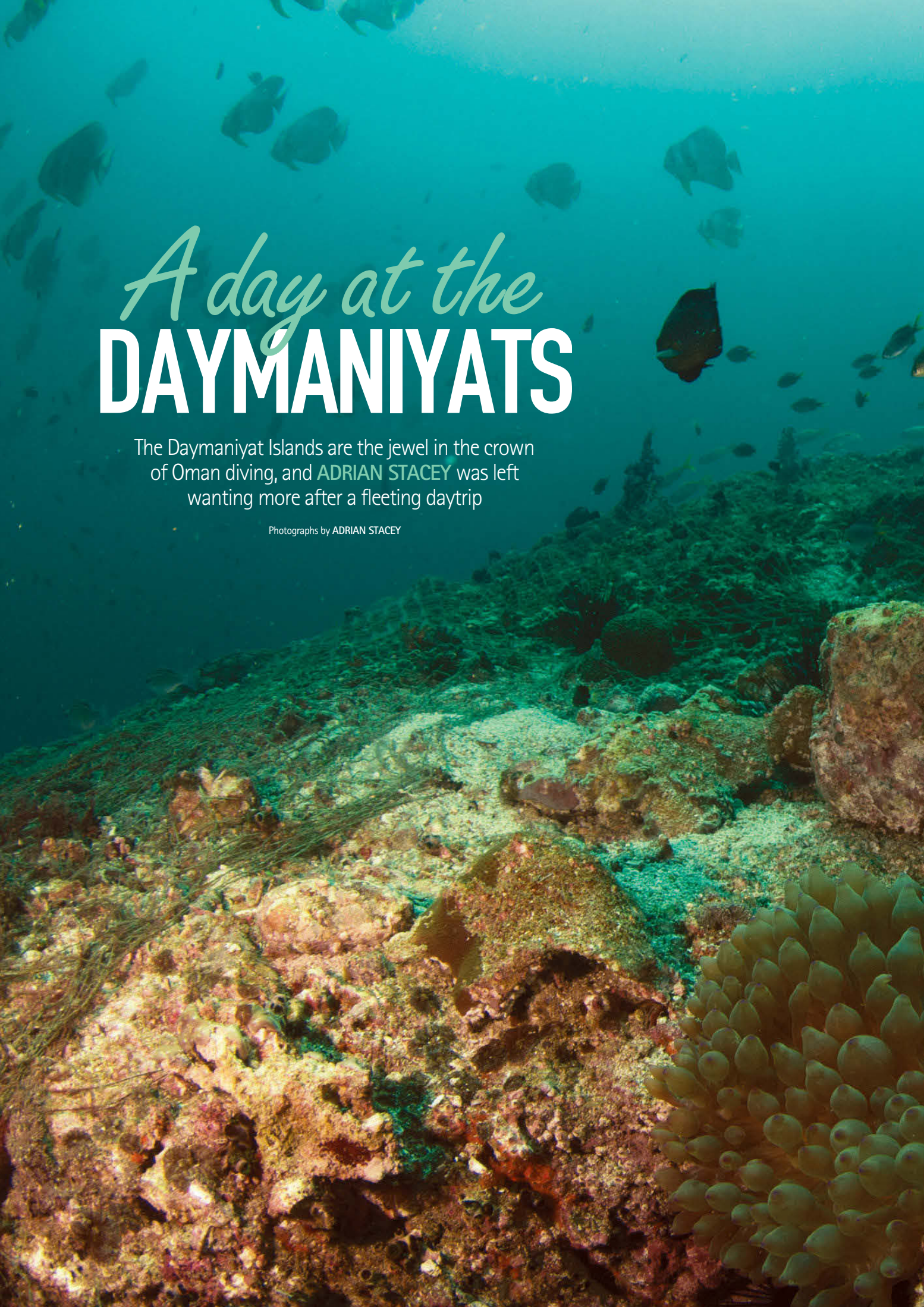


EMPEROR
divers.com

FREE NITROX
On all Emperor
Fleet Boats

www.emperordivers.com
info@emperordivers.com



An underwater photograph showing a vibrant coral reef in the foreground and middle ground, with numerous fish swimming in the clear blue water above. The coral is diverse, with some showing bright colors like orange and yellow, and others being more muted. The fish are mostly small, dark-colored species, possibly damselfish or similar. The overall scene is a healthy, thriving marine ecosystem.

A day at the **DAYMANIYATS**

The Daymaniyat Islands are the jewel in the crown of Oman diving, and **ADRIAN STACEY** was left wanting more after a fleeting daytrip

Photographs by **ADRIAN STACEY**



OMAN'S STUNNING COASTLINE IS BEST EXPLORED BY SEA

Oman Sail offers a full spectrum of internationally certified dive courses in this extraordinary marine environment. Our dive centre is located at the exquisite Millennium Resort Mussanah, which provides exceptional comfort and service while you enjoy your dive experience.



THE PERFECT GETAWAY AT MILLENNIUM RESORT MUSSANAH

Seafront Beach Resort | Fully Serviced Apartments | Tantalizing Food & Beverage outlets | SPA & Fitness Centre
Beach Club with Pool Bar | Swimming Pools including exclusive private ladies pool | Kids Club and Park
Tennis Courts | 18 Holes Mini Golf | 54 Berth Marina | Oman Sail Water Sport and Dive Centre



TO BOOK

T: +968 2687 1518

E: sales.mrmo@millenniumhotels.com

WWW.MILLENNIUMHOTELS.COM



MILLENNIUM
RESORT
MUSSANAH, OMAN

You are the Centre of Our World

SEAOMAN
Discover, Explore, Experience

POWERED BY

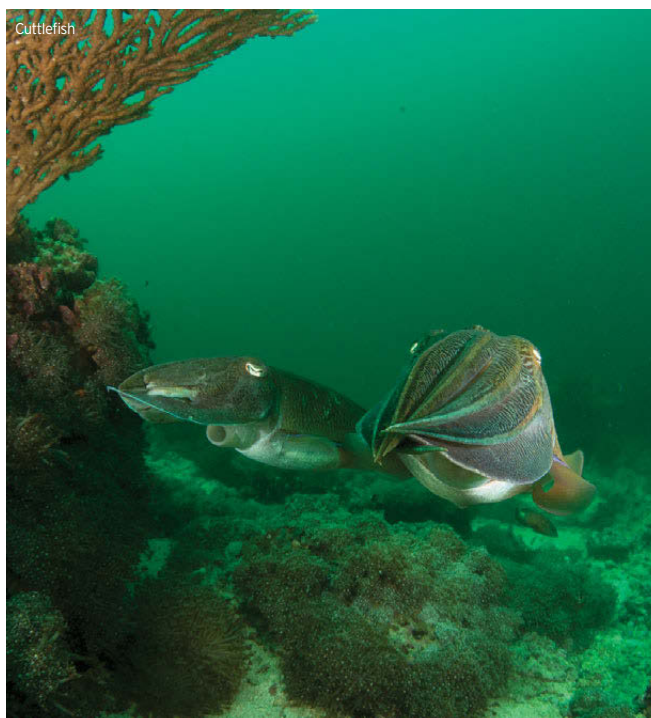




A vibrant mix of soft corals provide a splash of colour on the reef...



...and on the sandy seabed



Cuttlefish

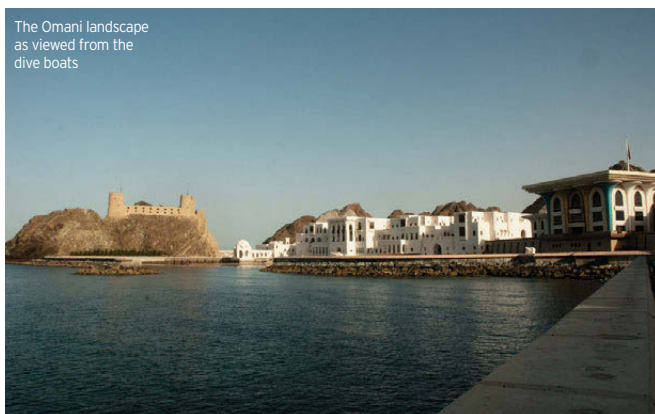
The Daymaniyat Islands are located in the Gulf of Oman about 11 miles off the coast near the town of Barka. Boats leaving from Muscat take around one hour 30 minutes to reach this string of nine flat, desolate islands. Desolate on the surface, far from it underwater. The islands have been a protected nature reserve since 1996 and while there is still evidence of fishing, the marine life is breath-taking. The diving around Muscat is good - the Fahal Islands offer some spectacular flora and fauna, and the Bander Kharyan area has some great coral growth - but the Daymaniyat Islands are a different kettle of fish; the diving here is simply fantastic.

I was diving with Euro Divers, who are located at the marina next to the yacht club ten minutes outside of Muscat. Euro Divers offer an overnight trip to the Islands, which includes three day dives and a night dive. The rest of the evening is then spent camping on one of the islands, with a barbecue on the beach for dinner, then two more dives the next day before returning home. Six dives, a barbecue and spending the night under the star-encrusted Arabian skies sounded like the perfect way to get to know the Daymaniyats. Unfortunately, with limited time and a busy schedule, my buddy and I had to settle for a day trip.

The first half hour or so of the journey took us north along the rugged limestone coast and past the impressive palace of the Sultan of Oman. This huge building is set back in a small bay and is watched over by ancient fortifications perched on the ridges above; we then passed the less-picturesque oil refinery before heading out to open seas. Unlike earlier in the week, the seas were like glass, our boat glided over the water and before long we were joined by a large pod of dolphins. Some of the pod eagerly rode the bow wave, playfully vying for the best position in front of our boat, while others treated us to an acrobatic show of Cirque du Soleil extravagance.

Visibility can be a little bit hit-and-miss in Oman, especially around March when I was visiting; ten to 15 metres is an average, but it can drop down to a murky green five metres. On the day we visited, however, the conditions below the surface were as good as those above, for the first dive at least, where we had about 20-25 metres visibility. The Aquarium was the name of the first site and it more than lived up to its name. After spending a few minutes finding this totally submerged site, we descended 12m or so onto a shallow plateau. It was littered with small bommies sprouting multi-coloured broccoli corals and supporting a perfusion of

The Omani landscape as viewed from the dive boats



"The diving around Muscat is good - the Fahal Islands offer some spectacular flora and fauna, and the Bander Kharyan area has some great coral growth - but the Daymaniyat Islands are a different kettle of fish"





DISCOVERY

THE NEW DEFINITION OF PERFECTION

www.rixos.com
seagatesharm@rixos.com

RIXOS
SEAGATE SHARM

Nabq Bay, Sharm El Sheikh
South Sinai Sharm / EGYPT
T: +20 69 3710 130

DIVE

The Red Sea & The Maldives
with specialists, Diverse Travel



Red Sea Liveaboards

Emperor Elite
Emperor Superior
Emperor Asmaa
FREE Nitrox

Resort Dive Centres

El Gouna
Hamata
Marsa Alam x 3
Sharm El Sheikh

Maldives Liveaboards

Emperor Voyager
Emperor Atoll
FREE Nitrox

- ✓ Exceptional prices
- ✓ 'Been there' advice
- ✓ Tailor-made holidays
- ✓ ATOL protected

Diverse



www.diversetravel.co.uk
info@diversetravel.co.uk
Freephone 0800 915 4436



dive
holiday
designers

egypt
where it all begins

The Red Sea Dive Specialists

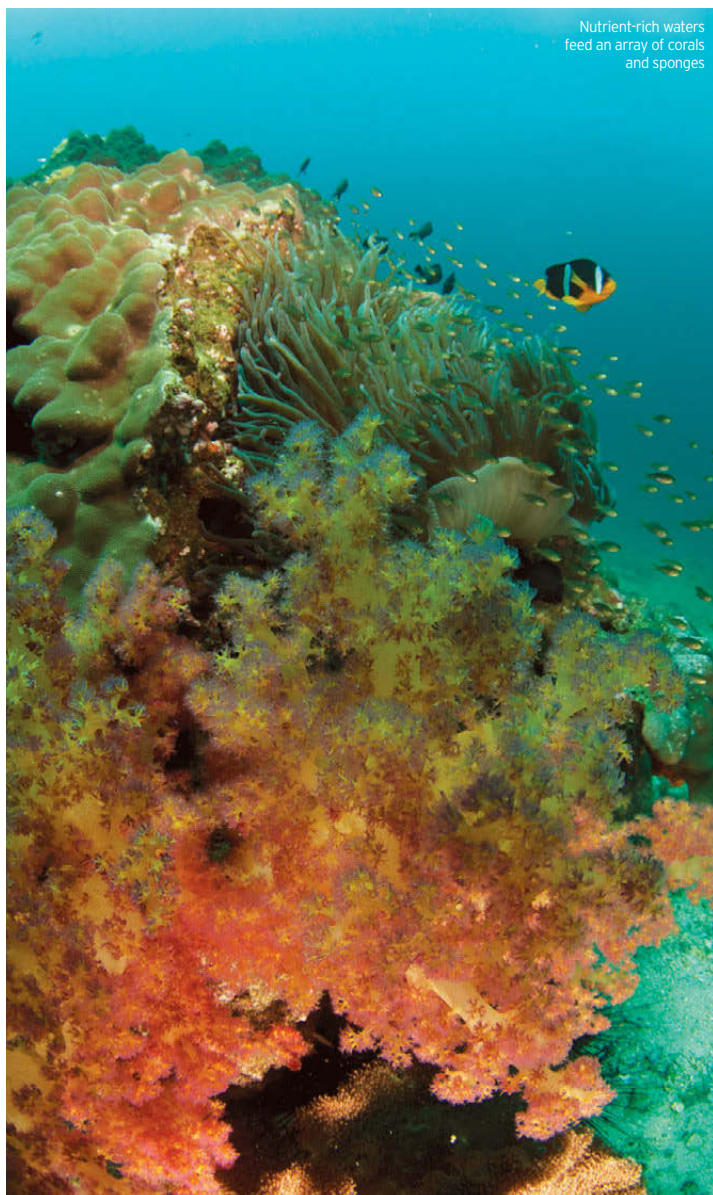
Red Sea Diving Holidays Designed for You
Sharm el Sheikh • Dahab • Nuweiba • Taba Heights
Hurghada • El Gouna • Soma Bay
Marsa Alam • Liveaboards

Call our specialist Dive Holiday Designers on
Tel: 020 3384 0024 or visit our website:

www.diveholidaydesigners.com



"Some of the pod eagerly rode the bow wave, playfully vying for the best position in front of our boat, while others treated us to an acrobatic show of Cirque du Soleil extravagance"



Nutrient-rich waters feed an array of corals and sponges



Huge shoals of fish inhabit the islands

fish life, including red-tooth triggerfish, anthias and damsels. After ten minutes of beautiful but unchanging scenery, I began to wonder if this was all the site had to offer. Don't get me wrong, I could have quite happily spent an hour dive on this techni-coloured plateau, it was just that the guide's briefing had alluded to a lot more. No sooner had the thought passed through my mind when the topography began to subtly change; a small ridge gradually rose from the plateau creeping towards the surface. We followed the contours of the reef at the bottom of the ridge for a few more minutes and then upon rounding one corner the reef suddenly dropped to a depth of about 30m and I began to see why this is considered the best dive site in the Daymaniyats, and possibly the Muscat area. The reef was engulfed with schools of fish. A huge school of yellow snapper clung to the wall; batfish congregated in large numbers in one of the many gullies; large scale trigger fish, damsels and anthias danced above the reef like puppets on a string. All too quickly it was time to ascend, the reef conveniently rising to 5m below the surface - ideal for safety stops, especially if the current is pumping.

For reasons I am still unsure about, at a second site called Noodle, the visibility dropped considerably to about ten metres, even though it was only a few hundred metres from Aquarium. Located on the side of one of the islands, the reef wall dropped 20m to a sandy slope. Staghorn, table and a variety of other hard corals jockeyed for space, covering every inch of available rock. A pair of cuttlefish hovered just above the reef like alien spaceships, a yellow-mouthed moray eel poked out of its hole sway-ing gently in the surge and, while this site was not nearly as lively as the Aquarium, it was spectacular in its own way.

Once the dive had finished it was time to head home, and like all good dive sites, I left the Daymaniyat Islands wanting more. Next time I am going to enjoy that barbecue on the beach below the clear night sky... ■

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW THE DAYMANIYAT ISLANDS, OMAN



FreeVectorMaps.com

WHERE IS IT?

Oman is situated along the southeast coast of the Arabian Peninsula and it counts Saudi Arabia, Yemen and The United Arab Emirates as its neighbours.

HOW TO GET THERE

Oman Air flies direct from London Heathrow to Muscat. Flight time is about seven hours. To drive from Dubai takes around five hours.

WHEN TO VISIT

Diving in Oman is year round. The best months to visit regarding visibility are between May and September.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You can obtain a visa on arrival for up to 30 days at a cost of 20 Omani Rials (OMR).

CURRENCY

Omani Rial (£1 = 0.60MR).

WHERE TO EAT AND MEET

The Yacht Club Marina restaurant (next door to Euro Divers) offers a place to get an après-dive beer and good western food. For a taste of traditional Arabic cuisine, try the port district of Muttrah and the nearby quarter of Old Muscat.

VERDICT

Muscat is a beautiful, traditional and friendly city. It offers some great uncrowded diving, especially at the wreck of the Al Munassir and the Daymaniyat and Fahal Islands. So for a real taste of Arabia and some excellent diving, I would highly recommend Oman.

**Red
Sea
Summer
Specials**

**Red Sea
Holidays**
Hotel/Flight Ghazala Beach BB
7 nights from **£359**

Sharm el Sheikh

Dive the Red Sea with the Red Sea
Pioneers! Best Hotel/Flight Packages
with Red Sea Holidays.

sinaidivers.com

Sharm el Sheikh

Marsa Alam

Dahab

Aqaba

Safaris

**SINAI
DIVERS**
DIVING CENTERS

QUALITY  DIVERS

RED SEA DIVING

FREE Buddy Diving • FREE Group Places
Liveboards – Great Range, Great Value!



- LIVEBOARDS
- HURGHADA
- EL GOUNA
- SAFAGA
- SOMA BAY
- EL QUSEIR
- MARSA ALAM
- HAMATA
- SHARM
- DAHAB
- NUWEIBA & MORE



Regaldive

The Diving Holiday Specialists

01353 659999
www.regaldive.co.uk



enquiries@global-scuba.com
Tel +968. 2469 2346



**YOUR FIRST CHOICE FOR
DIVING IN OMAN**

Awarded a certificate by Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs for work done at the Daymaniyat Islands, Global Scuba Dive Centre operates in the Sultanate of Oman. We are a PADI, NAUI and BSAC recognized centre offering a full range of NAUI and PADI diving courses.



**FAMILIES
& GROUPS
WELCOME**



www.global-scuba.com



What's New

APEKS KVR1 (SRP: £1,600 | €2,240)



Based on the success of the Fusion Bullet design, the KVR1 is engineered for rugged cave and wreck-diving environments. Para-Aramid fabric encapsulates and protects the Fusion Drycore, with additional protective PU armour at the shoulders, elbows, knees and seat, while reinforced mauser-taped and six-thread sewn seams ensure maximum durability. Ankle zippers ease donning, and oversized twin-zip expansion pockets with D-ring attachment points and drainage provide plenty of storage - a neat Pocket Support System prevents the pockets from riding out. Deluxe suspenders keep the garment in place, and removable 2mm comfort pads add cushioning at the elbows and knees. The SLT System (neck and oval wrist rings) are standard, and it comes with inflator hose and zipper wax.

www.apeks.co.uk

DIVESANGHA PONCHO (SRP: £60 | €83.49)

Change in privacy, get dry quickly and store away your wet swimwear with this useful poncho. You can use it on a boat, on the beach, after diving, swimming and even showering. One size fits all, and it comes with a waterproof double-compartment bag with ties, so you can avoid taking any plastic bags to your holiday destinations and protect the ocean from plastic pollution. Made with medium-weight woven microfibre, the DiveSangha Poncho is highly absorbent, quick-drying and features our original HUNG DRY™ system. Ethically made in the UK, it is available with free worldwide shipping - and there is a free drybag with each order!



www.divesangha.com

SUBGEAR SK'T'TITANIUM (SRP: £119 | €165.59)



The SK'T' has a pointed titanium blade with a sharp cutting edge, a serrated section and a line cutter, and it has a titanium hammerhead on the hilt. It features a thermoplastic rubber-moulded handle that fits comfortably either in a gloved or bare hand. The entire knife can be disassembled for complete maintenance. The sheath securely holds the knife in place thanks to two locking 'teeth', and fastens around the calf using rubber straps featuring quick-adjust, quick-release buckles.

www.subgear.com

FOURTH ELEMENT STARGAZER

(SRP: £69.95 | €97.34)



A combination of stretch, high-performance fabric with a practical extra-long design makes this hoody the perfect pre- and post-dive garment, as well as having a unique style all its own.

Made from 95 percent polyester and five percent elastane. Cream-and-navy striped surface, with a brushed fleece inner.

www.fourthelement.com

INTOVA COMPACT EXTENSION POLE

(SRP: £23.95 | €33.33)



This handy telescopic pole provides extended reach for a mounted camera, and can also be used as a monopod. It is made from aluminium, stainless steel and plastic with a ball joint pivot point, and weighs just 156g. The length when stowed is 27cm, and maximum length extended is 81cm.

www.cpspartnership.co.uk

AQUALUNG AQUILON (SRP: £15-£26 | €21-€36.50)

This new snorkel from Aqualung comes in a range of colours to co-ordinate with the company's range of masks, and there are purge and non-purge versions available.

The D-shaped barrel flat face sits against the skin for better comfort, the splashguard has a side dry chamber for faster clearing, the bi-material corrugation will not crush or deform, there is a twin elliptical purge valve, and it features a Comfobite mouthpiece.

www.aqualung.com/uk



DRYROBE COMPRESSION SACK

(SRP: £12 | €16.80)

So you've got your DryRobe, you've finished getting dried off and changed, so now what do you do with it? As anyone who has got a DryRobe will know, this is quite a chunky garment thanks to its thick fleecy lining. That's where the DryRobe compression sack comes in. Stuff your DryRobe inside and use the straps to squish it down, and - ta dah! - you are left with a compact, easy-to-store parcel. Simple but effective.

www.dryrobe.com



TUSA MESH BACKPACK (SRP: £49.95 | €70)

This multi-purpose 100 percent nylon daypack is ideal for carrying a mask, snorkel and fins or even a full set of dive gear, among other beach necessities. The rubberised mesh drain is located on the front-side of the bottom, deflecting draining water away from your body, there is a large Velcro-closing pocket on the front, and the padded shoulder straps are contoured, allowing for extra comfort. It is available in hot pink, blue and black.

www.cpspartnership.co.uk



Each month, the Sport Diver Test Team assembles to rate and review a selection of diving equipment from a range of manufacturers

Gear on test

REGULATORS UNDER £275

Regulators - the most-important thing in the diver's arsenal of equipment. And there are a vast array on the market, ranging from under £200 to nearing a grand, so we have split them into three price brackets - under £275, £275-£475, and over £475. This issue we will be looking at the budget end of the scale.

We test the regulators in the chilly waters of Vivian Quarry in the heart of Snowdonia in North Wales in March for the annual review, firmly in the belief that if they can put up with our robust approach to reviewing in these extreme diving conditions, then they will be more-than-fine come the British diving season when water temperatures will be substantially higher than low single figures.

We do everything you shouldn't do to your regulators when cold-water diving - they are left outside in the back of the pick-up overnight the day before diving, we purge and rapidly breathe them topside prior to entering the water, and then repeat these exercises underwater as well as looking at the comfort of the mouthpiece, ease of use of the purge and any venturi levers or cracking resistance controls, and the bubble dispersal from the exhaust.



ON TEST

MODELS

- Apeks ATX40
- Aqualung Core
- Hollis 212 DC1
- Mares Rover
- Oceanic GT3/CDX
- Scubapro S360/MK11
- SubGear SG10

Date tested 18/3/15

Water temperature
6 degrees C

Land temperature
7 degrees C

TEST TEAM



Mark Evans

- Sport Diver editor
- PADI Divemaster
- 28 years of diving experience



Will Harrison

- SD deputy editor
- PADI Tec 50
- 5 years of diving experience

"Regs - the most-important thing in a diver's arsenal"



Regulators under £275

Apeks ATX40

Sport Diver
BEST
VALUE

Mark: Apeks are world renowned for producing top-quality regulators that perform well in cold water and other extreme situations. The ATX40 might be their entry-level model, but it still produces a stunning level of performance, with a smooth, dry breathe in all positions, powerful purge, comfortable mouthpiece, and an easy-to-use venturi lever developed with gloved hands in mind. The only thing which lets it down are the fairly bland looks - Apeks regs further up the food chain have been given a makeover, this is in need of one now.

Will: As I expected from Apeks, a great breathe all around. It is comfortable in your mouth, offers a decent-sized control for the venturi, and a good purge. The looks might not be to everyone's taste, but I actually like the design of the ATX40.

ComfoBite
mouthpiece

SPORT DIVER VERDICT

Performance	★★★★★
Comfort	★★★★★
Looks	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★



WE LIKE...

Price, performance, build quality



WE DON'T LIKE...

Looks split opinion

Aqualung Core



Mark: The Core is Aqualung's new competitor in the budget-priced regulator stakes, and it does a fine job on its maiden voyage with the Test Team. The looks of the second stage will be either loved or loathed (I am veering more to the first camp, it adds a splash of colour to proceedings), but the performance cannot be faulted. Smooth breathe, good bubble dispersal, large positive purge and a comfy mouthpiece, all at a cracking price.

Will: I am not a fan of the looks - bit too in-your-face for me. However, it does breathe well in all positions, and the venturi lever is easy to use and makes a definite difference to the inhalation.



SPORT DIVER VERDICT

Performance	★★★★★
Comfort	★★★★★
Looks	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★



WE LIKE...

Performance, price, build quality



WE DON'T LIKE...

Looks split opinion

Regulators under £275

Hollis 212 DC1

Sport Diver CHOICE



PRICE
£250

Mark: By far the nicest-looking regulator in this price bracket. The subtle engraving around the metal insert surrounding the large purge makes it stand out from the crowd.

Thankfully, it performs as well as it looks, with a dry breathe, smooth air delivery and large controls for the cracking resistance control and the venturi lever, though to be honest these didn't make a huge difference to the performance. It also comes with a braided hose - one of only two in this price bracket to do so. Lovely regulator at a great price.

Will: I agree with Mark, this is a great-looking regulator. It has a massive purge button, chunky controls for the venturi and cracking resistance (though I also found they didn't make much difference to the breathe) and offers a dry breathe in all positions.

Large controls



Huge purge



SPORT DIVER VERDICT

Performance	★★★★★
Comfort	★★★★★
Looks	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★



WE LIKE...

Looks, performance, price, braided hose



WE DON'T LIKE...

Nothing worth mentioning

Mares Rover



PRICE
£162

Mark: The cheapest regulator on the test, but it had quite a noisy breathe compared with its rivals. The looks - like the ATX40 - are also a bit bland and in need of an uplift.

As is the norm with Mares, there are no controls to fiddle with, the performance is as it comes out of the box. The purge works well but is quite stiff, and the mouthpiece is rather hard. The exhaust offers decent bubble dispersal.

Will: I actually quite like the plain and simple looks of the Mares Rover. And I also like the fact that there are no controls for the user to mess with - the reg is just set up to breathe well, if a little noisily compared with its rivals here. It performed well, though the large purge is quite stiff to depress.

Stiff purge



Mouthpiece



SPORT DIVER VERDICT

Performance	★★★☆☆
Comfort	★★★★★
Looks	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★



WE LIKE...

Price, lack of controls



WE DON'T LIKE...

Noisy breathe, stiff purge



Not one size fits all... we care...
'off the peg - made to fit' or 'made to measure',
we take the time to make sure your suit fits **you**...

*at O'Three we work with every diver to ensure their dry suit
is the perfect fit for them and their diving, a tailored solution.*

*We do not ship anonymous product in a box,
we supply an important piece of diving equipment.*

...Come in from the Cold

Regulators under £275

Oceanic GT3/CDX



Mark: The GT3 has quite understated looks compared with some here, but it actually looks quite good for it. The entire front of the regulator becomes the purge, which works well, despite being a little stiff, and it gives a decent breathe. The large control for the cracking resistance is easy to use with a gloved hand, but doesn't really make any difference to the performance. It also comes with a braided hose - one of only two in this price bracket to do so.

Will: Nice smooth breathe in all positions, a good exhaust system and a large purge make the Oceanic a good contender. As Mark said, the control didn't make a marked difference to the performance, but equally was easy to find and operate with cold gloved hands.

Large control



Comfy mouth-piece



SPORT DIVER VERDICT

Performance	★★★★★
Comfort	★★★★★
Looks	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★



WE LIKE...

Braided hose, looks, performance



WE DON'T LIKE...

Nothing worth mentioning

Scubapro S360/MK11



Mark: Scubapro churn out good-looking regulators, and the S360 is no different, the chrome insert into the front of the second stage giving it a style that belies its price tag. It has a comfortable mouthpiece, a decent purge and reasonable bubble dispersal, though the venturi control is a bit awkward to operate when wearing gloves, though it does make a difference to the performance.

Will: Nice-looking regulator, with a good exhaust, a comfy mouthpiece and a beast of a purge. The venturi control is quite difficult to grip with cold hands in thick neoprene gloves. Overall, very good performance.

Powerful purge



Awkward control



SPORT DIVER VERDICT

Performance	★★★★★
Comfort	★★★★★
Looks	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★



WE LIKE...

Looks, build quality, performance



WE DON'T LIKE...

Small venturi control

XENOS

blue is the new black



stretch neoprene for optimum fit

designed for rapid donning and doffing

watertight blindstitched seams

thermocore lining

hydrolock wrist seals minimise water ingress

in stores summer 2015



fourth element
EQUIPMENT FOR ADVENTURE

Regulators under £275

SubGear SG10



Mark: The SG10 is a budget-priced regulator which manages to look and perform like it should cost another £75 more. The second stage, with its triangular-shaped purge button, looks good, and the large venturi lever is easy to use with gloved hands. That unusual purge works well, but is quite stiff. The large mouthpiece is quite thin when clenched between your teeth.

Will: The SubGear reg provides a good breathe in all positions, has a decent exhaust and a powerful purge. The mouthpiece is quite soft and flexible, but I found it comfortable. This was the only reg on the test that I had go into freeflow with no real encouragement (i.e. not after we'd been purging it for 20 seconds or breathing rapidly through it).

Stiff purge



Venturi lever



SPORT DIVER VERDICT

Performance	★★★★★
Comfort	★★★★★
Looks	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★



WE LIKE...

Looks, performance, price



WE DON'T LIKE...

Stiff purge button

Sport Diver VERDICT



Regulators seem to be getting better and better these days, and several of these budget-priced units could quite comfortably have fought tooth and nail with some of the mid-priced regs from last year's group test. Some of the regs we weren't smitten with the looks, or they had stiff purges, or the controls didn't really make a lot of difference to the breathe, but there was nothing here that we felt we wouldn't be comfortable diving at any time of the year in our chilly waters.

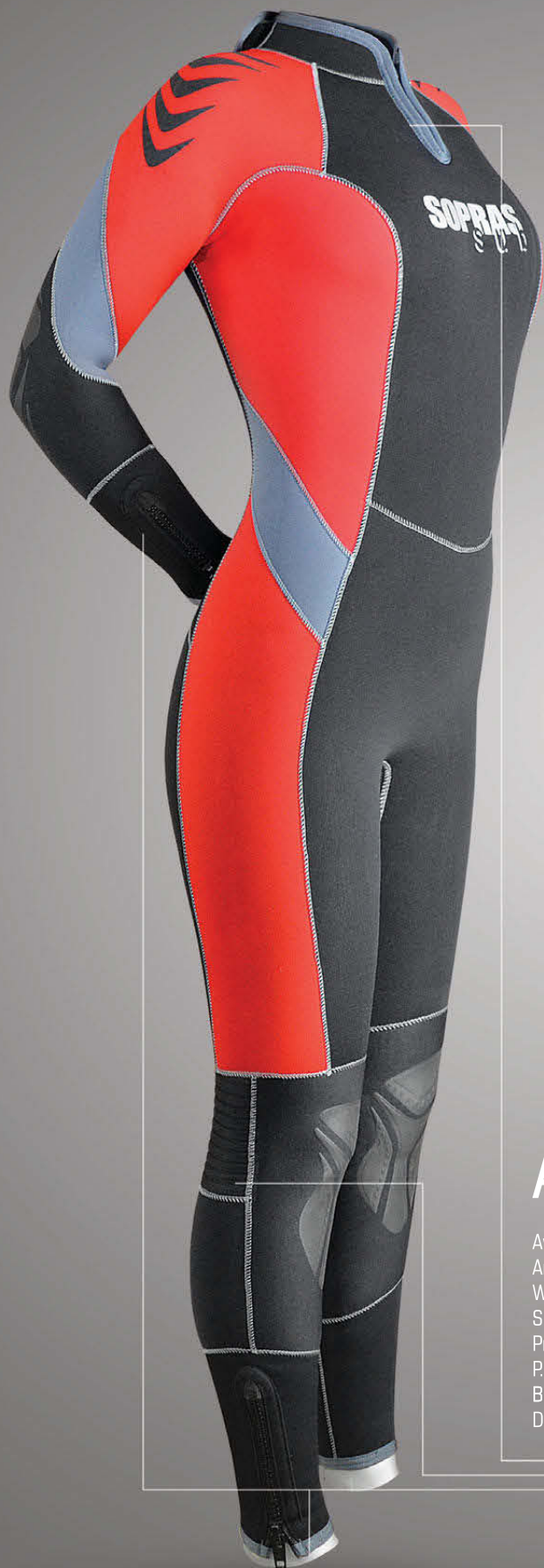
For the Best Value, there were a few contenders - namely the SubGear, the Mares and the Apeks - but the latter took the crown thanks to its all-round excellent performance. It might need an overhaul in the looks department, but no questioning its pedigree.

For the Choice award, it was a battle between the Scubapro, the Aqualung and the Hollis, which all gave a solid showing in the test. The Scubapro looks good and performs well, as does the brand-new Core from Aqualung, but the Hollis boasted a cracking performance as well as the best looks here and was a deserved winner.

SOPRAS

s u b

Designed
by divers
for divers



Antibes

Available in 5 or 7mm
Anatomical design
Warm termoplush inside lining
Superstretch neoprene, nylon outerskin
Pre-bent knees with special wave-flex panels
P.U. printing on knees, elbows and shoulders
Back zipper with special padding
Double smoothskin seals with zipper at neck, wrist and ankle



Products which either don't fit into a group test situation or are new to the market are given the once-over by a member of the Test Team

Test Extra

Aquabionic Warp 1 fins (SRP: £149.99 | €209.08)

Will Harrison: I have been diving the original Warp 1s for a good couple of years now. I have tried my hand at several other designs of fin - both temporarily during Gear Guide test days, and on slightly longer-term occasions, such as a couple of months playing with the Scubapro Seawing Novas - and none of them have swayed me from using the excellent Warp 1s when I go away on assignments. I was therefore delighted when Mark informed me that the fin had been given an upgrade and a new set were kicking their way into the Test stable...

First thing's first, let's address the colour. Now, shocking yellow isn't going to be everyone's cup of tea (I'm talking to you particularly, techies), but I have always liked it. A splash of colour helps you stand out from other divers on busier dive sites and fins are the easiest and least ridiculous way of achieving this - nobody wants to wear a luminous wetsuit. During the last few years, my old faithfuls have actually bleached to an even-more-luminous yellow, so be warned! Ultimately, it's a taste thing, but if you're cool with the colour, there's plenty more to like about this piece of kit. Of course, if yellow isn't your cup of tea, then they do come in other colours!

The fin's primary design feature is the soft centre of the blade. The idea is that the blade cups water as you kick and propels you forward when released. The real benefit of this, as far as the diver is concerned, is that it means you have the manoeuvrability of a flexible split-fin with the power of a paddle fin - the best of both worlds. I have worn the Warp 1s in all manner of underwater environments, from silty wrecks where delicate movements are required to punchy currents where the ability to generate power is critical. Quite simply, they are a fin for all occasions and I have yet to experience anything better.

Onto that upgrade... Bar a couple of superficial changes, the main alteration has been to the straps. The old buckle straps have been replaced by spring bungees which, in my opinion, is an excellent call - putting the fins on, particularly in small and cluttered RIBs, is just that much easier.

www.liquidsports.co.uk

Will with the Warp 1s



New spring straps



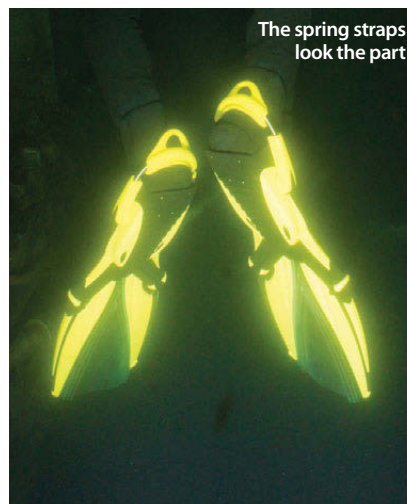
Luminous yellow shows up in the darkness

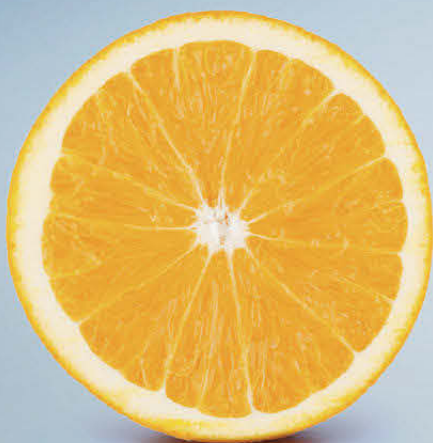


Slight change in design



The spring straps look the part





VITAMIN C



SCUBA DIVING

IN ALL FIELDS A REFERENCE IS NEEDED

NEW C O R E

The Aqua Lung Core Supreme is the only regulator that offers scuba divers a mix of high technology at an unbeatable price. Cold water compatible with a balanced first and second stage and patented Auto Closure Device to prevent first stage moisture ingress, the Aqua Lung Core stands out from the rest.

RRP: £230

AQUA LUNG®
aqualung.com/uk

Each issue, members of the Sport Diver Test Team report on a range of diving equipment being put through its paces on a six-month cycle of diving

Long-term test

Ursuit Heavy Light Kevlar BDS

NEW ARRIVAL

The Heavy Light BDS Kevlar (Breathable Diving Suit) has been developed especially for demanding surface rescue, professional and technical diving. The material is a trilaminate fabric with Kevlar reinforcement, which boasts high tear, puncture and wear resistance. It is extremely light and breathable, properties adding to the comfort of the user. It has a front-entry zipper, large Velcro-closing pockets with internal D-rings, heavy-duty rubber boots, and a neoprene neck cover for additional warmth. Here is Will sporting the latest edition to the LTT stable at Stoney Cove, and his first report will appear next month.



Mark Evans,
www.liquidsports.co.uk

INFORMATION	
Date acquired	March 2015
Suggested retail price	£1,600
Number of dives	0
Time in water	0hrs 0mins

Hollis Explorer eSCR

One of the most important things on a rebreather is the cluster of oxygen cells. Some have two, but the Explorer has three, which nestle together at the base of the temp stick where it sits into the Life Support System headset. It is vital that users routinely check the dates on the oxygen cells, as they have a use-by date for a reason - sadly, and only recently, we have read about CCR divers dying due to faulty readings from expired oxygen cells.



Mark Evans,
www.hollis.com

INFORMATION	
Date acquired	November 2014
Suggested retail price	£4,199
Number of dives	8
Time in water	8hr 25mins

KUBI Dry Glove System



The neat thing about the KUBI Dry Glove System is the fact that they can be retro-fitted to virtually any drysuit - and vice versa, they can be removed as well, so if you want drygloves in the winter but normal gloves in the summer, no problem. However, getting them fitted is certainly an acquired knack. I finally managed to get mine on to my Fourth Element Argonaut Kevlar suit after an hour-and-a-half or so involving much swearing and cursing. What made it more frustrating was that I had seen people fit and remove these bloody things in a matter of minutes! Definitely a case of practice makes perfect! Once on, they look the business, and getting the actual gloves on and off is ridiculously easy. The ring on the gloves just neatly slots into the ring on the cuff and you just ensure it is seated correctly - and that's it! The dexterity they offer over 5mm or 7mm neoprene gloves is huge, and your hands remain dry and warm. Sorted!

Mark Evans,
www.KUBIstore.com

INFORMATION	
Date acquired	February 2015
Suggested retail price	£156
Number of dives	3
Time in water	1hr 45mins

Scubapro X-Black

The Test Team were all impressed with the X-Black in our top-of-the-line BCD test last year, and its now great to get our hands on one for an extended period of time. The jacket is very comfortable, with a well-padded backpack and thick shoulder straps, and the air cells tend to expand away from your body, avoiding that crushing feeling you sometimes get on full inflation. It has got the time-proven pinch-clip integrated weight system, with decent-sized pockets that each hold a couple of 2-3kg lead weights easily.



Mark Evans,
www.scubapro.co.uk

INFORMATION	
Date acquired	February 2015
Suggested retail price	£549
Number of dives	2
Time in water	1hr 10mins

BARE HDC Expedition Tech Dry

The BARE drysuit is continuing to impress, both in terms of its comfort and flexibility, and its flattering looks. But it is certainly not all show and no go, as the suit has been well thought out and designed for divers as opposed to looking good on a hanger!

Take the pockets, for example. There is a zippered pocket on the main Velcro-closing flap over the spacious thigh pocket, which is big enough for a back-up torch, and then the main pocket can swallow a spool and DSMB with ease.

And you've got two of them, so never going to run short of space!

Dave Hope,
www.baresports.com



INFORMATION

Date acquired	October 2014
Suggested retail price	£1,699.15
Number of dives	8
Time in water	6hr 45mins

Fourth Element Arctic Expedition

The Arctic Expedition is proving its worth already, keeping me nice and toasty on four dives in water temperatures ranging from 3-6 degrees C, including our first regulator test, which involves lots of fairly stationary time underwater. I normally use the range-topping one-piece Fourth Element Halo 3D, and while the Arctic Expedition is not as warm as this undersuit (as you would expect), it runs it a close second, especially if you pair it up with a wicking base layer to enhance the thickness of thermal protection. I think I prefer a fullsuit undersuit for ease of donning your drysuit and avoiding any chilly 'gaps' between the bottoms and the top, but with the high waistband and low bottom of the Arctic Expedition, this isn't such an issue - just make sure as you pull your drysuit up over your thighs and waist that the bottom hem of the top stays where it should be!

Mark Evans,
www.fourthelement.com



INFORMATION

Date acquired	August 2014
Suggested retail price	£279
Number of dives	4
Time in water	2hr 35mins

Aqualung Whites Fusion FIT

I don't think anything will ever get my wife to consider UK - or any cold-water diving, to be honest - as anything less than a chore; a hardship to be endured when I pressgang her into testing women's kit. She was taken with the looks of the Aqualung Whites Fusion FIT drysuit, but was still full of trepidation when it came to getting into the water. However, as described last week, once she was in the depths of Vivian, she actually relaxed into the dive. Getting her out diving another time wasn't such a hassle after this first experience, but getting into the suit was a bit of a struggle again. As we said, practice will no doubt make it easier, but there is certainly a knack that needs to be learned to avoid wifey grumblings...

Mark Evans,
www.aqualung.com/uk



INFORMATION

Date acquired	August 2014
Suggested retail price	£1,449
Number of dives	3
Time in water	2hr 15mins

Oceanic Zeo FDXi

END OF TERM



The Oceanic Zeo has reached the end of its six-month stint with the Long Term Test squad, and it has proved a solid performer both in the cold waters of the UK through the winter and in warm waters abroad. All the team members liked the looks of the regulator, with its chrome insert and detailing on the second stage, and the proven FDXi first stage is a good partner, making for quite a lightweight set-up. Throw into the mix the Oceanic lifetime warranty and free parts on servicing and you have all the ingredients for a capable all-rounder.

Dave Hope,
www.oceanicuk.com

INFORMATION

Date acquired	July 2014
Suggested retail price	£429
Number of dives	32
Time in water	31hrs 15mins

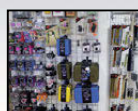


LONDON'S PREMIER UNDERWATER CAMERA STORE



Massive Central London
showroom full of cameras,
housings, strobes, GoPro
accessories, video lights
and more...

Contact:
www.oceanleisurecameras.com
info@oceanleisurecameras.com
tel: 020 7930 5051



PRO SHOOTING *on a budget*

Low-cost 4K cameras seem to be coming out of our ears right now. They're everywhere. But if you have aspirations to make something for broadcast, can they hack it in the world of professional kit? **JOHN MCINTYRE** investigates

Photographs by JOHN MCINTYRE

I decided to move from the traditional workhorses of the industry, such as Sony EX1 with trusty Gates housing, and go down the DSLR-style camera route because of the crippling charges the airlines levy for excess baggage. After agonising over what to get, I finally plumped for the much-vaunted Panasonic mirrorless GH4 micro-four-thirds camera. Black Magic's cinema 4K rig seemed like a good option for a while, but there were too many issues. In the world of DSLRs, Canon has been almost unrivalled for a number of years, especially with the quality of image from the 5D. But Panasonic ingeniously latched on to the lack of 4K cameras in this bracket and, more importantly, decided to maximise video compatibility.

This, combined with Nauticam's drive to provide housings for pretty well anything that takes pictures underwater, clinched it for me.

Having recently finished a documentary, Shark Junction, about the superlative shark-laden ocean wilderness of Socorro, now airing on NatGeo Wild, it was important to get the ball rolling for the next feature.

First though, I wanted to try out the GH4 professionally. I used the rig to shoot underwater sequences for ITV's Tales from Northumberland with Robson Green. It was a two-day shoot in the Farne Islands, filming a very affable and uncomplaining actor diving on a site laden with 18th Century cannon in the shallow waters of the appropriately named Gun Rock, no more than 6-10m. Okay, so Robson showed us all up by wearing a 5mm wetsuit while we were toasty warm in our drysuits, but time was limited and I needed to get the best from the camera on its first outing in my clutches.

So the bottom line was: Could a camera costing around the £1,000 mark (body only on the price front) deliver the sort of quality to keep a broadcaster happy?



Contact:
www.oceanleisurecameras.com
info@oceanleisurecameras.com
tel: 020 7930 5051

Compact camera + underwater housing packages to suit all budgets and levels. Also lots of accessories for every wet situation.



Canon PowerShot D30



Canon S120 Diving Package

LONDON'S PREMIER UNDERWATER CAMERA STORE



what if you could wear something
that was good for the ocean?

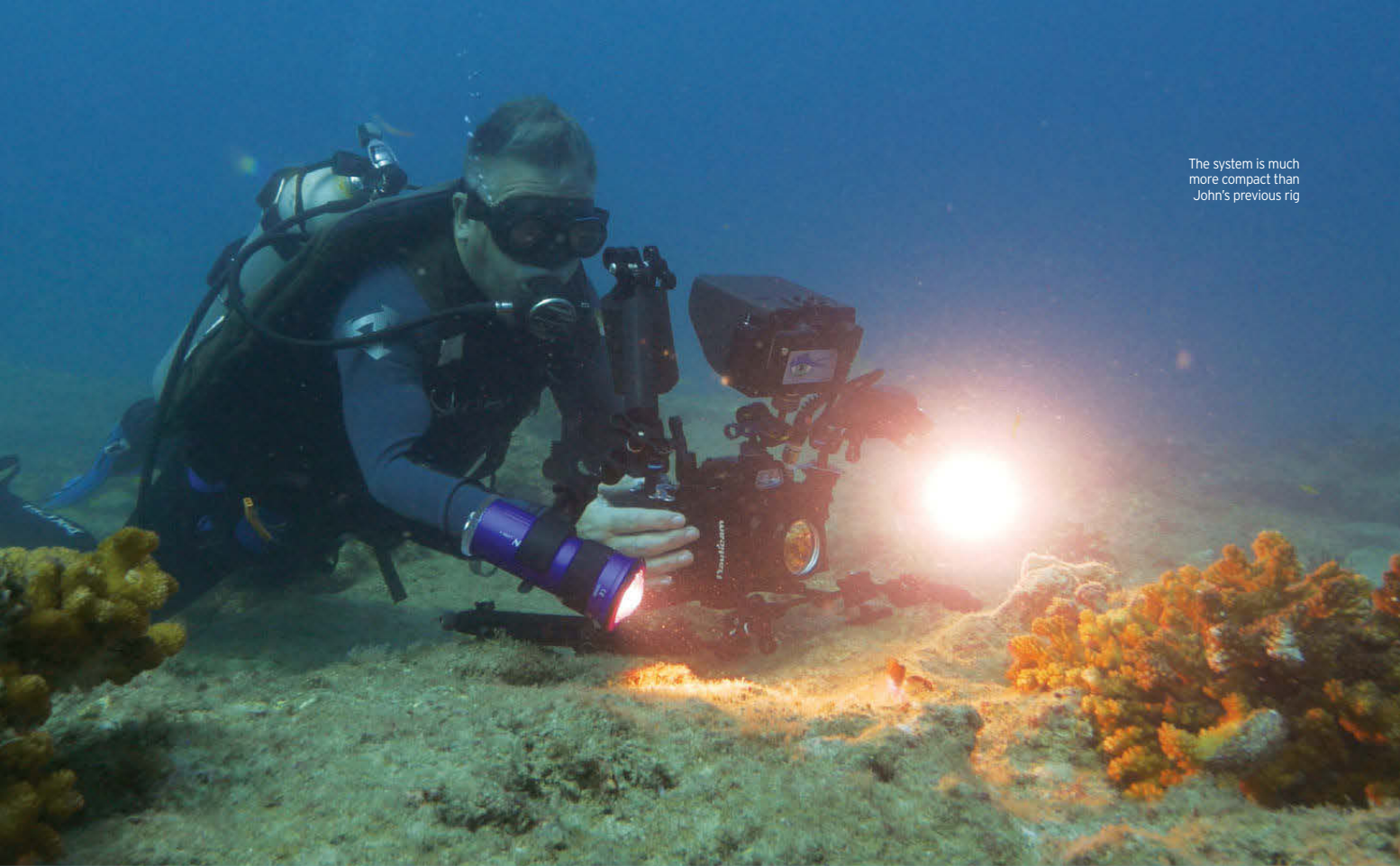
OceanPositive

fourth element

swimwear and rashguards
made from recycled ghost fishing nets
summer 2015

fourth element

10211



The system is much more compact than John's previous rig

By the time you've added in the housing, lights, selection of lenses, underwater monitor, high-speed data cards and batteries, the rig comes in around the £7k mark. Even so, this is comparatively cheap in the world of TV.

The simple answer is - yes.

I shot the Robson Green dives only in HD 1920x1080p, not 4K, at a data rate of 100mb/s. Most programmes specify their technical spec in the 'call sheet'. This details everything about a shoot - personnel, presenters, kit, hotels, contact details, and so on. For this shoot, I used a Panasonic 7-14mm wide-angle lens and dialled up a white balance of 5K.

I was genuinely surprised at the sharpness of the detail and the colours looked pretty natural, without much need for grading.

The main issue with small cameras and housings is stability underwater. I added a tripod plate, batteries, lights and buoyancy arms to make life easier.

It takes a bit of working out, but it's vital to set up any kit you want to use professionally totally in manual mode, everything from focus and white balance to shutter speed and aperture.

The GH4 is stuffed full of the sorts of features you'd expect on a video camera, with focus peaking, lightning-fast quick-lock focus (which the Nauticam accesses with great ease in the form of a thumb paddle), switchable formats including the preferred .mov files. It also records full intra-frames and has a variable frame-rate option, currently up to 96fps. Next for the big test - shooting a pilot for my next documentary. Armed with a range of lenses, shoulder rig, drone, housings and the latest, very-tasty Keldan video lights (see accompanying review), I headed to Cabo

Pulmo, a small, windswept ocean village off the beaten track in the Sea of Cortez.

The essence of the story is about a community that sacrificed fishing as a way of life after plundering the local seas, to make way for a fully protected marine reserve. This is a part of the overall story. And the word 'story' is key to any documentary. You can have the best shots in the world, the best cameras, and the best dive kit. But if you can't identify and tell the story, then it doesn't matter. You may as well pack up your bags and leave.

Along with friend Adil Schindler (some of you may know him from the liveboard Solmar V), who was the principal photographer on Shark Junction, we both arrived armed with identical kit, except that I had the good fortune to be testing the Keldans.

We both bulked out the rigs with base plates and tripod legs. We used a combination of the 7-14mm and 12-35mm lenses, the latter giving us tighter shots though, of course, shortening the depth of field. In the giant schools of bigeye jacks, for which Cabo Pulmo has become famous, this gave me options in the edit for sharper close-ups and the big wides. The Nauticam housing performed extremely well. It also has an optional vacuum pump which is a no-brainer if you want to prevent leaks. As someone who has only used glass ports in the past, my only regret was buying Nauticam's acrylic version. There is a glass version but it's quite a

"So the bottom line was: Could a camera costing around the £1,000 mark deliver the sort of quality to keep a broadcaster happy?"

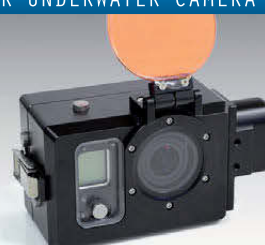


Contact:
www.oceanleisurecameras.com
info@oceanleisurecameras.com
tel: 020 7930 5051

London's biggest selection of GoPro cameras, diving and watersports accessories. We've got the lot!



GoPro Hero4 Action Cameras



i-Pix GoPro 150m housing

LONDON'S PREMIER UNDERWATER CAMERA STORE

KELDAN VIDEO 4X LIGHT (SRP: £950)

Psychedelic purple, hot pink or even violet? You decide. Whatever the colour of the latest video lights from the innovative engineer behind Keldan, it's an unmistakable brand colour that's here to stay.

They are the brainchild of Daniel Keller, whose company is based in Switzerland. Among his latest offerings are the Video 4X Lights. I've used his lights previously on professional shoots, including for the BBC's One Show, but I was keen to try these out on my Mexico shoot, not least because they are incredibly lightweight, with a pair nudging the scales at 1.4kg out of water, and just 650 grams each in water. So with all my gear and a two-bag hold allowance, I had no excess to pay - a first for many years.

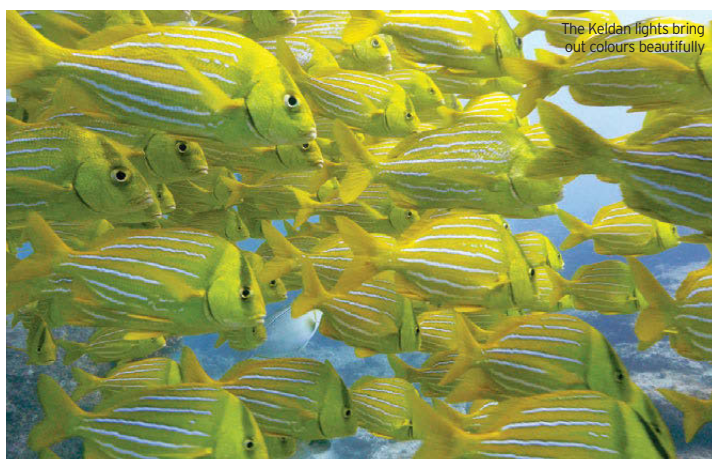
What Daniel doesn't know about the science of underwater lighting isn't worth knowing. I could go into great detail based on his explanations of candle power versus luminance, colour rendering index, correlated colour temperature and so on. Suffice to say, these pack a real professional punch, with a maximum of 6,000 lumens of light. On a few days, in the less-than-clear seasonal waters of Cabo Pulmo Bay, any light is going to struggle to penetrate too great a distance. But close up to the big schools of jacks, the smooth 110 degree beam did give an even and strong light. Had I waited just a month or so, I'd have loved to trial Daniel's new 10,000 lumen lights, which almost certainly would have given a better overall result. But when it came to macro filming, the variable power settings (five of them ranging from 14-55 watts) are a real plus.

For years, I've been a fan of Greenforce video lights. My verdict is they both have a strong place in the market, as both are totally dedicated manufacturers when it comes to professional and amateur products. One aspect that may edge it for Keldan right now is the ability to change the small but powerful Li-Ion batteries, which is crucial on boats without a power supply. Such competition really only serves to keep rivals on their toes and undoubtedly it's the users who will come out on top. However, such performance does not come cheap. A pair, each supplied with a single battery, will set you back £1,900.

On the colour front, I applaud Daniel for not giving in to people who were demanding black versions. I know if I turn up on a shoot with Keldans, the other divers recognise them instantly and are incredibly envious! Now I can't wait to try out the 10,000 lumen versions!

You can check out all the spec on the Keldan website:

www.keldanlights.com



The Keldan lights bring out colours beautifully

"In the giant schools of bigeye jacks, for which Cabo Pulmo has become famous, this gave me options in the edit for sharper close-ups and the big wides"



John looking happy with GH4 and his Keldan 4X lights

pricey affair and around £900. Mind you, most things that work underwater are pricey. The acrylic dome scratches very easily and the marks can ruin your shots.

Sure, a larger, bigger volume housing is desirable in a situation where you are following a monster school of fish, but this was about getting strong results on a tight budget. On the whole, we got some excellent pictures. But if there is a downside to the GH4 it is that it's not a low-light camera. The highest I dared push the ISO was 800. Higher than this and the picture started to show signs of noise.

We also used the rig topside, too. Where there's good sunlight, the GH4 performs incredibly well. The results are very filmic. Shooting interviews in 4K also allows the option to zoom up to four times, though twice is often plenty, without losing definition. This can give the impression of a two-camera shoot and help enormously with the edit. Because of the reasonably high data recording, you have a lot more flexibility when it comes to grading.

Drones are a vital part of a film-maker's arsenal these days and we used one with the new GoPro Hero4 attached to a small gimbal, also shooting in 4K. The shots are excellent, steady and a vast improvement over previous incarnations of the GoPro. Watch out for new action toys hitting the market as the competition continues to heat up.

As proof that our efforts would satisfy a broadcaster, I produced a short feature for the BBC's Travel Show, which runs on BBC World and also the BBC News Channel. For audio, I used the new Rode NTG3B shotgun mic with the Beachtek DXA-SLR Ultra pre-amp bolted under the camera. With new kit on the market like the Sony AS7, which has astonishing low-light capability, the stills-come-video-camera operations are here to stay and no doubt will continue to grow as an important piece of kit for the documentary market, whether as principal or second unit.

At least now I have an affordable alternative to lugging around 80-100 kilos of gear without getting clobbered at airport check-in. You can see the evidence for yourself by checking out the shorty feature from Cabo Pulmo on the Sport Diver website (insert link). ■



Contact:
www.oceanleisurecameras.com
info@oceanleisurecameras.com
tel: 020 7930 5051

GoPro accessories: grips, telescopic poles, trays, filters, cases, spare parts, lighting setups + all GoPro original bits and bobs.



LONDON'S PREMIER UNDERWATER CAMERA STORE

ULTIMATE DIVING   

Specialists in Worldwide Diving Holidays

ASIA DIVERS & EL GALLEON DIVE RESORT

Asia Divers and the El Galleon Dive Resort & Hotel are the ideal combination for a diving holiday getaway to the Philippines with spectacular marine life, here you can drift dive along the breath-taking walls or just marvel at the schools of fish.




£1599 inc flights, transfers, 7 nights in hotel on B&B basis & 10 dives.
CALL 0208 655 6452
www.ultimatediving.co.uk
www.asiadivers.com

KELDAN⁺

Advanced Lighting Technology



NEW

KELDAN Video 8M CRI

8000 lumens
 5600 kelvins
 5 power settings
 Rated to 200 meters
 Outstanding Color Rendering 96 (Ra)

Available from:

Cameras Underwater
 Ocean Leisure Cameras
 Underwater Visions

For Professionals Who Know The Difference

www.keldanlights.com

 **Marsa Shagra**

Southern Dive Villages

OONAS DIVERS
Dive Adventures
 ESTABLISHED 1985 FOR DIVERS, FROM DIVERS
 UK Main Agent

Marsa Nakari

Wadi Lahami

Choose from 3 Fantastic Villages

Marsa Shagra • Marsa Nakari • Wadi Lahami

These southern Red Sea diving villages offer you the ultimate diving adventure! Enjoy the relaxed, laid back atmosphere of their unique locations and various eco-diving concepts.

Dive as much, or as little as you like.

Our repeat guests say these villages are the best value and all-round diving experience you will find in the Red Sea and rated by many, as 'world class' diving destinations.

Specialist Workshops

Join one of our specialist workshops or improve your diving skills with a course to create the perfect holiday fusion.

**Photography • Videography • Marine Life
 Freediving • Shark School • Yoga
 Tech Diving • PADI courses**

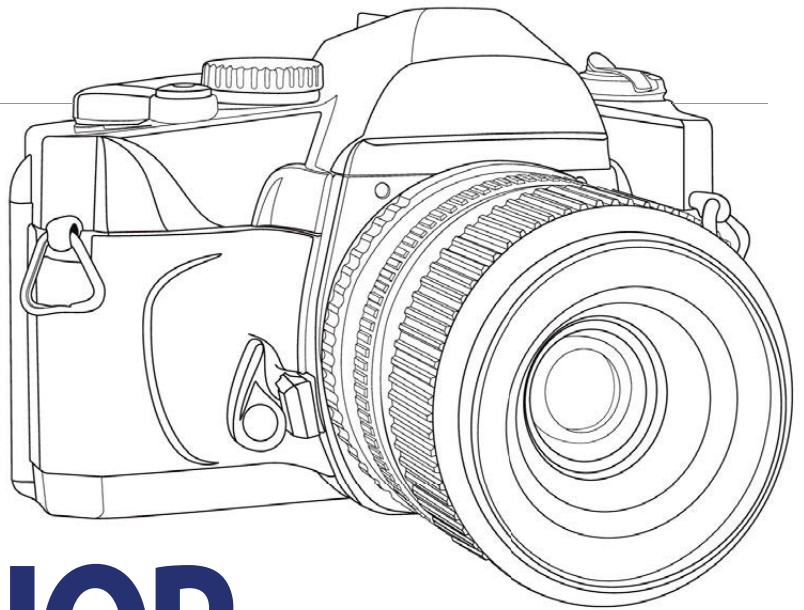


Tel: 01323 648924 E-mail: info@oonasdivers.com
WWW.OONASDIVERS.COM

HOW THAT SHOT WAS TAKEN

Expert advice from respected
underwater photographer
Martin Edge

PHOTO WORKSHOP



ADVANCED COMPOSITION: Wide-angle anticipation

Martin explains how to utilise a technique he calls 'compositional anticipation'

Photographs by MARTIN EDGE

The motivation for this series came as a result of judging the UK's 'Underwater Photographer of the Year' competition in January.

Both images this month were taken within minutes of each other on a dive site known as The Passage in Southern Raja Ampat, Indonesia, during one of my underwater photographic workshops. It fits well into my current series for a variety of reasons and in particular it demonstrates a technique, which I call 'compositional anticipation'. Many of you will have practiced this manoeuvre without a second thought. It comes naturally underwater. For example, you may be shooting a wreck. You have a good composition through your viewfinder when a diver swims through the scene and un-intentionally occupies an area, which improves the composition. It's a fluke but nevertheless it looks good for a variety of reasons. It may add a sense of scale, fill an area of dead space or simply add an element of human interest to the scene. We like the additional interest, we're more than

happy to call it a happy accident but never give it a second thought to create this idea intentionally more often. In my own work I'm very aware of other diver/photographers swimming within my frame. I wait for them to swim out of my frame or signal them to 'slow down' or 'speed up' or change direction. I give a big encouraging 'okay' sign and make a point of thanking them topside for either adopting a modelling pose or staying out of the frame all together. When I find myself within another photographer's space I always adopt a modelling pose and then gesticulate 'Do you want me to stay, or move out of the way'. I'm not sure how I manage to do this to be honest, but my 'work-shoppers' always seem to get the message. Let's look at the two examples above. The Pas-



sage is known for prolific, colourful sea fans and strong currents. In less than 2m of water there's an 'under-cut' which allows you to 'tuck-in' out of the current. This undercut is festooned with sea fans and with good buoyancy control you can float in the water column, out of the current and shoot out into the blue. The huge sea fan depicted above is about two metres wide and perfectly positioned to shoot other passing divers. My mindset is to com-



Contact:
www.oceanleisurecameras.com
info@oceanleisurecameras.com
tel: 020 7930 5051

Advanced aluminium housings for compact cameras offer amazing durability and ease of use for enthusiast UW-snappers



Nauticam Compact Housings



Recsea CWC Compact Housings

LONDON'S PREMIER UNDERWATER CAMERA STORE

Equipment and settings

Nikon D7000 with Tokina 10mm to 17mm lens at the 17mm end. Aperture f9 at 1/40th shutter speed. ISO 200. Flashguns were two Inon 220s on long arms placed level with my viewfinder behind the housing. Each flash was about 60cm away to each side.



Fig 2

pose the fan against the blue, paying particular attention to contain the fan within the frame and ensure that the extremities of the fan are not clipped in anyway. It's a strong composition with or without the diver, but I'm always mindful to make room within the blue for a passing diver to swim into. On this occasion I composed image one and was happy with the balance. I

was hoping that a passing diver would swim past and occupy the blue water column above the fan and provide a human presence, which is what happened. You can see that he's just below the surface line. In my opinion it's vital not to recompose to accommodate the diver, but to encourage him to occupy the blue space I've left towards the top of the frame. In image

one it's all about the fan. Image two is still all about the fan, but with a distant diver adding a human interest and providing a sense of depth in the background. Remember, don't alter your composition to accommodate the diver, it won't work. Maintain your strong foreground composition and encourage the diver to swim into your chosen 'empty' space. ■

PROFILE

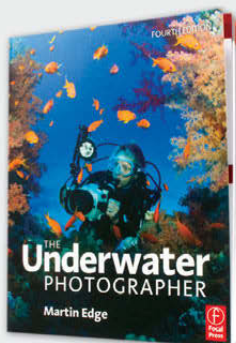
Martin Edge was born in Staffordshire, England in 1955, where he grew up without any inclination towards diving or photography. Years later, he moved to the Dorset coastline and in 1977 it was here that he learnt to dive. He had never had any particular interest or tuition in photography, but his desire to shoot pictures underwater grew into a passion bordering on an obsession. Over the last 20 years he has introduced, developed, motivated and mentored hundreds of underwater photographers.



SIGNED BY THE AUTHOR!

The fourth edition of Martin's book, *The Underwater Photographer*, is now available.

For a signed copy, phone 01202 887611 or email martin@edgeunderwaterphotography.com



NEED GIFT IDEAS?

Treat someone to a Photo Course with Martin. Martin runs one-day photo tuition courses designed for one, two or three persons. He promises to improve your photo skills by at least five years. Group bookings at discounted rates are available. Go to www.edgeunderwaterphotography.com for details or email Martin direct on martin@edgeunderwaterphotography.com



Contact:
www.oceanleisurecameras.com
info@oceanleisurecameras.com
tel: 020 7930 5051

When you need the best choose Nauticam or Hugyfot housing for your DSLR camera. For serious underwater photographers!



Hugyfot DSLR Housings



Nauticam DSLR Housings

LONDON'S PREMIER UNDERWATER CAMERA STORE

Underwater photo What's New

Sea&Sea MDX-a6000 (SRP: £1,557.95 | €2,140.18)



Designed to house Sony's a6000, 24-megapixel, APS-C, mirrorless system camera, Sea&Sea have produced the machined solid-block aluminium MDX-a6000 housing along with a completely new 'ML' port mount. Two new 'ML' ports have also been introduced, along with zoom and focus gears, to allow a range of Sony E-Mount lenses and converters to be used. And not forgetting Sea&Sea's tradition of quality and integration, the MDX-a6000 housing can also be used with the SA8 ball-arm system and a range of Sea&Sea strobes to create an ideal compact and versatile underwater photo system.

www.sea-sea.com

Sea&Sea MDX-D810 (SRP: £2,714.95 | €3,729.57)



Sea&Sea has released the new MDX-D810 housing for Nikon's D810. The housing is machined from solid block aluminium, depth rated to 100m and fully compatible with Sea&Sea's extensive range of ports, gears and accessories. Ergonomic design means camera functions are easy to access via well laid out controls, and using the Extension Ring 46 (with appropriate gears), discerning users can access both Zoom Control and Manual Focus at the same time.

For when lighting control really matters, the housing is compatible with the Optical Internal YS TTL Converter for quick and accurate TTL exposure.

www.sea-sea.com

Subal GH4 Housing (SRP: £1,744 | €2,395.76)

Subal, the world-renowned underwater housing manufacturer based in Steyr, Austria, presents the Subal GH4 housing. Subal has now entered the 4/3 mount camera segment using their experience gathered in the SLR and video housing manufacturing. With its revolutionary design, ergonomic handling and renowned quality, Subal is aiming to set a new standard in the underwater imaging industry.

The Subal GH4 housing is designed for the Panasonic LUMIX DMC GH4, the first DSLM camera in the market to record 4K, and made from a solid block of high-grade, seawater-resistant anodised aluminium.

All functions of the camera can be operated. Video function, menu, white balance, ISO, exposure compensation, OK, multi function keys, info, AFL, AEL among others.

Designed with handling in mind. Subal engineering team play a key role, taking into consideration the ergonomics and perfect arrangement of the Panasonic GH4 controls and functions, to allow the photographer easy operation and access to all photo and video functions while holding the camera.

www.camerasunderwater.co.uk



LONDON'S PREMIER UNDERWATER CAMERA STORE



Ocean Leisure Cameras also boast a huge range of underwater strobes and video lights: Inon, Sea&Sea, RGBBlue, FLX, L&M, BigBlue, etc...

Contact:
www.oceanleisurecameras.com
info@oceanleisurecameras.com
tel: 020 7930 5051



Inon Z-240 UW-Strobe



RGBBlue System 02 Light

Liquivision

ALUMINIUM TRANSMITTER PACKAGE NOW AVAILABLE!!



More than just an Air Integrated Dive Computer

INNOVATIVE:

Also monitor your buddies air supply and direction •
Guides/Instructors can monitor up to 4 divers •
Find your way back to boat/entry point •

LYNX

VERSATILE:

Use up to 3 gas mixes (Air/Nitrox 21%-100%)

READABLE:

Full Colour OLED Screen with Angled Display

INTUITIVE:

Tap Interface Allows Quick and Easy Setting

* Accessory equipment needed. See website for details



WWW.SEA-SEA.COM

dive enlightened



AQUALITE S eLED

DIVE

20° SPOT BEAM
HAND-MOUNT
INCLUDED



VIDEO

90° DIFFUSE BEAM
BALL-ARM & SWIVEL
MOUNTS INCLUDED



500 LUMENS
100mts DEPTH RATED
INTERCHANGEABLE HEADS
CAN BE USED WITH UV HEAD
ADJUSTABLE POWER BUTTON
BATTERY AND USB CHARGER INCLUDED

WWW.SEA-SEA.COM

UK Underwater
Kinetics

BEYOND TECHNICAL



The Shearwater NERD (Near Eye Remote Display) is the first technical dive computer with a display mounted on the diver's rebreather mouthpiece, capable of 3 cell monitoring.

FLAWLESS SERVICE
AT THE CHEAPEST PRICES!

Tel: + 44(0) 1933 681255

www.nakedat90.com



LOOK INTO THE
FUTURE OF DIVING

SHEARWATER
POWERED

Near • Eye • Remote • Display



READERS PHOTO COMPETITION

WIN A GOPRO

GOPRO HERO RRP £99.99

SPONSORED BY
Cameras
UNDERWATER



**Want to see your image here?
Upload your photographs now
to the Sport Diver website!**

Want to be in with a chance of winning a GoPro Hero 3 White Edition? It's easy - simply select your favourite underwater images and upload them to the Gallery section of the Sport Diver website. Each month, we will choose the best, most-eye-catching image as the Photo of the Month. But to be in with a chance of winning, your images have to be in the Gallery, so don't sit back and think 'I wouldn't win that', get your images on the website - after all, as with any competition, you have to be in it, to win it!

Cameras
UNDERWATER
WWW.CAMERASUNDERWATER.CO.UK
TEL: 01404812277

**TO ENTER UPLOAD YOUR PICTURES TO
WWW.SPORTDIVER.CO.UK/GALLERY**

Housings for the Canon PowerShot G7 X



Canon

Nauticam



Ikelite



Recsea



Recsea

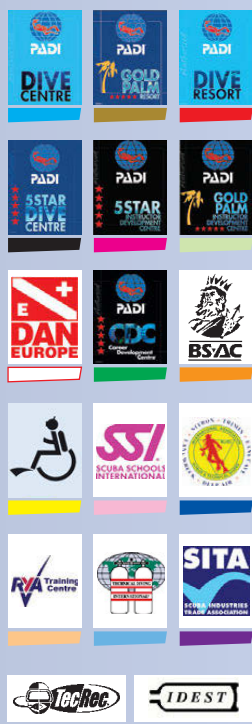
100m
←

50m
→



**cameras
UNDERWATER**
tel: 01404812277
www.camerasunderwater.co.uk

DIRECTORY KEY



SHOP KEY

OSS.....Onsite servicing
OST.....Onsite testing
BS.....Testing to British Standards

OVERSEAS ABBREVIATIONS

ACC.....Accommodation
AIP.....All inclusive package
AT.....Airport transfers
AYRD.....All year round diving
BH.....Boat hire
CAOS.....Compressed air onsite
CH.....Car hire
EA.....Environment activities
EH.....Equipment hire
ESI.....English speaking instructors
FCF.....Families catered for
LB.....Liveaboards
NDCF.....Non-divers catered for
OWs.....Other watersports
TD.....Tech diving
UWP.....Underwater photography

ENGLAND

BERKSHIRE

DIVESTYLE

DIVESTYLE Unit A, Bridge Farm,
Reading Road, Arborfield,
Berkshire, RG2 9HT
Tel: 0118 976 1729
Fax: 0118 926 9616
Email: info@divestyle.co.uk
Website: www.divestyle.co.uk
Opening Hours: M, T, F 10:00-18:00 W 10:00-20:00 S 10:00 - 17:00. Air To 300 Bar. PADI 5★ IDC. Nitrox, National Geographic. EH, ESI, TD, EA, FCF, AYRD. PADI IDC centre, Nitrox, Trimix, equipment retail, PADI, SSI, BSAC, EFR, DSAT, TDI, rebreather friendly, Family friendly, child friendly, kids parties (4 weeks notice).

CORNWALL

KENACK DIVING

Sea Acres Holiday Park,
Kennack Sands, Helston,
Cornwall TR127LT
Tel: 07816 903260
Email: mail@kennackdiving.co.uk
Website: www.kennackdiving.co.uk
Opening Hours: 09:00-18:00
Air to 232 Bar. PADI 5★ Dive Resort. EH, AYRD, UWP, CAOS. PADI Courses from Bubblemaker to Assistant Instructor, specialties & guided dives all with friendly local Instructors. Equipment Hire, Heated indoor pool, on site, accommodation available.

CORNISH DIVING SCHOOL

Bar Road, Falmouth
Cornwall TR11 4BN
Tel: 07885 771282 &
07779 445851
Email: info@cornishdivingschool.co.uk
Website: www.cornishdivingschool.co.uk
Opening Hours: 09:00-17:30
Air to 300 Bar. PADI 5★ IDC. Boat Dives. Novice-Instructor. Dive Shop. Shore diving. Escorted Dives. Onsite Pool. Friendly Helpful Staff. Suit Repairs. DSD. Watersports. Snorkelling. EH, ESI, AYRD, UWP, CAOS, FCF, NDCF.

DERBYSHIRE

CHESTERFIELD ADVENTURE CENTRE

Wheatbridge Road, Off DockWall,
Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S40 2AB
Tel: 01246 245408
Email: info@divenut.co.uk
Website: www.divenut.co.uk
Opening hours: Tues-Sat 10am-6pm Air to 300 Bar. PADI 5★ IDC, OSS, BS, EH. Full range of courses from beginner to instructor. Equipment sales, dive club, group holidays. Nitrox, Poseidon rebreather sales & training. Easy parking. 3 pool nights.

LOOKING TO ADVERTISE YOUR DIVE CENTRE?

T. +44 (0) 118 974 2502
E. sam.wren@sportdiver.co.uk

DEVON

DIVERS DOWN

Babbacombe, Torquay,
Devon, TQ1 3SR
Tel: 01803 327111
Fax: 01803 314728
Email: info@diversdown.co.uk
Website: www.diversdown.co.uk
PADI 5★ IDC Centre SSI, OSS, BS, EH, ES, CAOS, Nitrox. Active dive club, escorted dives, boat trips organised. Courses from beginner to instructor. Open 7 days a week.

ESSEX

DIVERSE SCUBA

Ye Olde Plough House Motel,
Brentwood Road,
Bulphan,
Essex, RM14 3SR
Tel/Fax: 01375 892444
Mob: 07814 570165
Email: jeanne-marie@diverse-scuba.co.uk
Website: www.diverse-scuba.co.uk
Opening Hours: Office & Shop: Monday to Thursday 10.30am - 7pm. Saturday 10am to 2pm. Training pool: 6pm to 9.30pm. Closed Friday, Sunday & Bank Holidays. Our own On Site Pool, Air to 300 Bar, PADI 5★ IDC, OSS, EH, On Site Pool FCF, Acc, Restaurant Facilities. Complete range of PADI courses available, from Discover Scuba through to Instructor, with resident course director, Full range of specialties, classroom. Dive shop. Social events and holidays.

HAMPSHIRE

ANDARK DIVING AND WATERSPORTS

256 Bridge Road,
Lower Swanwick,
Southampton SO31 7FL
Tel: 01489 581755
Fax: 01489 575223
Email: bookings@andark.co.uk
Website: www.andark.co.uk
Andark Lake Tel: 01489 885811
Email: lake@andark.co.uk
Opening Hours: Mon/Thu and Sat 9am To 6 pm, Fri 9am To 8pm, Sun 9:30 to 5pm
NITROX/TRIMIX. Onsite pool and classrooms. Fully equipped friendly shop. Online sales. Powerboat courses. Underwater escape training. Holidays. Andark lake. Kids Parties. Activity Club. Onsite Servicing. Commercial diving Courses. Parking PADI 5★ IDC. BSAC Premier Centre. RYA Centre. HSE Commercial Diver Training and First Aid Centre EH. LB. ESI. TD. EA. AIP. FCF. AYRD. UWP. NDCF. CAOS

KENT

DIVE MACHINE

Unit 11 Orchard Business Centre,
SandersonWay,
Tonbridge,
Kent TN9 1QF
Tel: 01732 773553
Fax: 01732 773663
Website: www.divemachine.com
Email: robert@divemachine.com
Opening Hours: Mon-Sat 09.30-17.30, Weds 09.30-19.00. Air to 300 bar, nitrox, trimix, idest. PADI CDC, PADI Courses from beginner to instructor. IANTD, Nitrox. Specialties: Enriched air, Dry suit, Photographer, Deep, Night, Underwater navigator, wreck, Oxygen first aid, DAN O2, Boat, Equipment and Drift. Authorised dealer for most leading mfrs. Large display area. Classrooms. Large free car park. Professional, friendly service & advice. Regulator Services. Suit repairs. Holidays abroad and in the UK.

LONDON

AQUANAUT SCUBA & SNORKELLING CENTRE

34 Coombe Road, Kingston Upon Thames,
Surrey, KT2 7AG
Tel: 0208 546 8882
Email: info@aquanautscuba.co.uk
Website: www.aquanautscuba.co.uk
Opening Hours: Monday - 11am-6pm, Tuesday - 11am-6pm, Wednesday - 11am-6pm, Thursday 11am - 7pm, Friday - 11am-6pm, Saturday - 10am - 6pm, Sunday - by appointment. Nitrox & Air to 300bar, 5★ IDC Centre / IDEST and BSAC Centre. SITA member. OSS OST BS CAOS EH TD. Courses from beginner to instructor, Fully stocked dive shop with excellent purchasing advice, Friendly and very active dive clubwith UK and overseas trips and social.

LODGE SCUBA

8 Hampton Road,
Thornton Heath,
London, CR0 2XG
Tel: 0208 765 1036
Email: info@lodgescuba.co.uk
Website: www.lodgescuba.com
Opening Hours: 10:30am-7pm Tues-Sat.
Air to 232 Bar. EH, ESI, TD, EA, AYRD, UWP, NDCF, CAOS. Nitrox, Trimix, Oxygen. PADI 5★ IDC, BSAC, TDI, NAUI, NACD. Servicing, cylinder testing, technical diving, equipment hire, large equipped shop with changing facilities, childrens parties, government run pool sessions, classroom, online sales, recreational diving, large parking area, courses and equipment, Cafe, BBQ Area.

MIDDLESEX

G & H DIVING SERVICES LTD

Unit 1, Willow House,
River Gardens,
N Feltham Trading Estate,
TW14 0RD.
Tel: 020 8751 3771 / 020 8890 3302
Fax: 020 8751 2591
E-mail: gerryhassell@gheng.com
Website: Under construction
Opening Hours: 8.30 - 5.30 Mon to Friday. 8.30 - 12 noon Sat. Air to 300 Bar. BSAC, TDI, SDI & PSA. EH, TD, CAOS. Cylinder testing IDEST 2v, Regulator servicing, Air, Nitrox, Trimix, TDI Technical courses. Suit repairs.

SUSSEX

OCEAN VIEW DIVING SERVICES LTD

160 South Street, Lancing,
West Sussex BN15 8AU.
Tel: 01903 767224
Fax: 01903 754361
Email: info@oceanviewdiving.co.uk
Website: www.oceanviewdiving.co.uk
PADI 5★ IDC Centre. IANTD, TDI. OSS, OST, EH, BS. Air to 300 Bar, Nitrox. Padi Tec Rec. Tri-mix. Mail order, suit repairs, holidays abroad, on-site indoor pool. Licenced bar and club. Largest selection of equipment in Sussex.



YORKSHIRE

THE DIVERS WAREHOUSE

911 Wakefield Road,
Bradford,
West Yorkshire,
BD4 7QA
Tel: 01274-307555
Email: sales@diverswarehouse.co.uk
Website: www.diverswarehouse.co.uk
Opening Hours 8:30 - 17:30 Mon - Fri, Thursday
8:30 - 19:00, Saturday 8:30 - 17:00, Sunday
10:00 - 16:00 PADI 5* Centre - Pool sessions
Shipley Pool Wednesdays 18:30 - 20:30 Servicing,
Cylinder Testing (Idest Approved), Equipment Hire,
Large Equipped Shop with changing facilities, classroom,
online sales, large parking area, PADI courses, equipment
from snorkelling to Technical diving



THE DIVER TRAINING COLLEGE

Malt Kiln Lane,
Appleton Roebuck,
York, North Yorkshire
YO23 7DT
Tel: 01904 744424 / 07967 742420
Fax: 01904 744724
Email: ops@cdms-diving.co.uk
Website: www.dtc-diving.co.uk
Opening hours: 9.00am-5.00pm Mon-Sat.
Air to 300 Bar. PADI 5★ Centre, OSS-OST-B5-Nitrox. Full
range of PADI specialties, RYA courses and specialist
commercial diving courses. Full range of equipment sales
from our well stocked dive shop. Open Mon-Sat.



ROBIN HOOD DIVE SCHOOL

152 Leeds Road,
Heckmondwike,
West Yorkshire
WF16 9BJ
Tel: 01924 444888
Fax: 01924 474529
E-mail: Dive@Roho.co.uk
Website: www.Roho.co.uk
Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 9.15- 6.00.
Late night Thurs till 8.00.Sat 9.15-5.00.OSS,OST,
BS, IDEST, EH, Nitrox. PADI Dive Centre, BSAC
Premier level. Training in our on-site heated pool
and lecture rooms. Home of the renowned ROHO
drysuits. Nitrox courses & fills. Gigantic 5000sq ft
showroom fully stocked with dive watersports &
snowboarding equipment. Friendly, helpful staff
and instructors. Equipment hire.



SCOTLAND

BERWICKSHIRE

AQUASTARS DIVE CENTRE

New Harbour Buildings,
Guns Green Basin,
Eyemouth,
Berwickshire,
Scotland.
TD14 5SD
Tel: 018907 50904
Mob: 07886 314008
Email: info@aquastars.co.uk
Website: www.aquastars.co.uk
Opening Hours: 9am-5pm.
Air to 300 Bar. PADI School. SITA, OST, OSS, BS,
EH. Guided dives, 10 metre rib, boat charter, shop,
hot showers, holiday packages arranged.



IRELAND

CO CORK

OCEANADDICTS

Kinsale, Co.
Cork, Ireland
Tel: 00353 (0)87-7903211
Email: anne@oceanaddicts.ie
Website: www.oceanaddicts.ie
Opening Hours: 9.00am to 6.00pm. Air to 300,
PADI Resort, DAN, LB, ESI, ACC, AT, UWP, NDCf,
CAOS, Nitrox. Liveaboard and day-boat diving,
groups and individuals welcome, friendly
atmosphere, wrecks and reefs, great photo
opportunities, courses available, live the adventure
on Ireland's South Coast.



CO DONEGAL

MEVAGH DIVE CENTRE LTD

Milford Road,
Carrigat,
Letterkenny,
Co. Donegal, Ireland
Tel: 00353 749154708
Mob: 00353 8765 90264
Email: reception@mevaghdive.com
Website: www.mevaghdive.com
Opening Hours: 9am to 6pm. Air to 300 Bar,
PADI 5★ Dive Centre, EH, ESI, TD, AIP, Acc, FCF, AT,
AYRD, UWP, CH, BH, NDCf, CAOS, Nitrox, Tri Mix.
Mevagh Dive Centre is Donegal's only dive centre
and Ireland's largest all under one roof. With diving
equipment, sales, hire, servicing, cylinder testing
and our state of the art swimming pool.



CO GALWAY

SCUBADIVE WEST

Lettergesh, Renvyle,
Co Galway,
Tel: 00 353 9543922
Email: info@scubadivewest.com
Website: www.scubadivewest.com
Opening Hours: 09.00 till 18.00 (closed Tuesday)
Air to 300 Bar. PADI 5★ IDC. EH, ESI, TD, EA, AIP, Acc,
FCF, AYRD, UWP, CAOS, NITROX, National Geographic.
Dive Centre ideally situated on the waterfront. 2 day
Island boat safaris, daily boat & shore dives, all courses
from DSD to instructor level, snorkelling.



NORTHERN IRELAND

COUNTY DOWN

DV DIVING

138 Mount Steward Road, Newtownards,
Co. Down, BT22 2ES.
Tel: 02891 464671/861686
Fax: 02891 464671
Email: info@dvdive.co.uk
Website: www.dvdive.co.uk
OSS, OST, BS, EH. DV Diving offer one of Europe's
most comprehensive ranges of scuba, technical &
commercial diving and powerboat training courses
- for the complete beginner through to instructor
development for the most experienced
professionals



PORTSTEWART

AQUAHOLICS DIVE CENTRE

14 Portmore Road, Portstewart
Tel: 28 70832584
Email: dive@aquaholics.org
Website: www.aquaholics.org
Opening Hours: 9am to 5pm. Air to 300 Bar.
PADI 5★ CENTRE. NITROX, TRIMIX. EH, ESI, TD,
EA, AIP, ACC, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, CH, BH, NDCf,
CAOS. Offering the full range of courses from
Beginner to Trimix. Diving the spectacular clear
water of the North Coast from Rathlin Island to
Malin Head.



OVERSEAS DIVE CENTRE

BERMUDA

DIVE BERMUDA

The Southampton Fairmont Hotel,
101 South Shore Road,
Southampton, SN02L
Tel: 1(441)238-2332
Email: crew@bermudascuba.com
Web: www.bermudascuba.com
Opening Hours: 08:00-17:00
Air to 200 bar. PADI 5★ IDC. ESI, EA, Acc, FCF,
UWP, NDCf, CAOS, DBDA, National Geographic.
Bermuda's only 5★IDC! All dives guided by
experienced instructors. Dive and snorkel trips
daily. Full hotel facilities available on site. Kayaks
and paddleboards rental available.



CAYMAN ISLANDS

SUNSET HOUSE - GRAND CAYMAN'S HOTEL FOR DIVERS BY DIVERS

390 South Church Street
PO Box 479GT
Tel: 1-345-949-7111
Fax: 1-345-949-7101
Email: reservations@sunsethouse.com
Website: www.sunsethouse.com
Opening Hours: 7:00 - 17:30
(Dive Centre Hours)
Air To 200 Bar. Stingray City and ex-USS
Kittiwake Adventures. PADI 5★ IDC. Full-Service
dive operations located at Sunset House.
Recreational boat dives. Incredible shore diving.
Nitrox. Cathy Church. U/W photo centre. 53
Rooms for accommodations. Bar, restaurant
onsite. EH, ESI, EA, Acc, FCF, AT (with packages),
ATRD, UWP, CH, BH, NDCf, CAOS (with packages)



CYPRUS

CYDIVE DIVE CYPRUS

20, Myrra Complex 33,
Poseidonos Ave 1,
Paphos 8042,
Cyprus.
Tel: 00 357 26 934271
Email: info@cydive.com
Website: www.cydive.com
PADI. The First PADI 5★ Career Development Centre &
Centre of Excellence in Cyprus. CAOS, EH, CH, AIP, Acc,
FCF, AT, ESI's, EAs', BH, AYRD, UWP, OW's, NDCf. Fantastic
Location, an exciting programme with 2 Boat Dives &
Daytrips Daily. Instructor programmes 4 times a year.



LARNACA DIVE-IN

HTTC Ltd
(Hyperbaric Therapy Treatment Centre)
Poseidonia Medical Centre
47a Eleftherias Avenue,
Aradippou,
Larnaca,
CYPRUS 7102
Tel: 00357 24 252501/24 hr Emergency
Diver Help Line 99 518837
Fax: 00357 24 252502
Email: info@hbocyprus.com
Website: www.hbocyprus.com
Opening Hours: 9-5 Mon-Sat.
24/7 Emergency Diver Response. Air to 232 Bar.
If you are concerned or feel that you have unusual
signs or symptoms after a dive please always get it
checked. We have a 24/7, 365 days service with a
full Hyperbaric Medical team on standby at our 14-
Man fully computerized, HAUX 2200 Starmed Unit.
We are the Preferred Provider for IDAN, UK Armed
Forces, US Armed Forces, NATO and many more. We
offer Direct Insurance billing for all treatments. Also
Dry Dives to 40 metres, PADI Chamber Specialty
Courses, DAN In-Chamber Tender Courses, DAN
Chamber Operator Courses, DAN Consumer and
Instructor Courses to all Levels.



SCUBA MONKEY LTD

36c Ayias Mavris
Tel: 35723724622
Email: dive@scuba-monkey.com
Website: www.scuba-monkey.com
Opening Hours: 8.30 am - 7pm (or later)
Air to 300 Bar. PADI Dive Resort. EH, ESI, EA, AIP, ACC
FCF, UWP, CH, NDCf, CAOS. Nitrox. Retail,
photography. Non diver to professional. U/W Naturalist.
Scooter DPV. Underwater Weddings. Education. DPV.
Videography. Intern Program. Fish Identification.
Multilevel Diver. Wreck, freediving, search and recovery.
Equipment Specialists. Underwater Navigation. Deep,
night and boat diving. Project aware.



EGYPT

AQUARIUS DIVING CLUB

Coral Sea,
Waterworld Nabq Bay,
Sharm el Sheikh
Tel: (+20) 01001232785
Email: info@aquariusredsea.com
Website: www.aquariusredsea.com
Opening Hours: 09:00 - 17:00
Air to 200 Bar. PADI 5★ EH, LB, ESI, EA, ACC,
FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, BH, NDCf, CAOS. Dive
centre's in Sharm el Sheikh, Hurgharda, Marsa
Alam, Hamata, Makadi & Sahl Hashish. Diving for
complete beginners to experienced divers.
Diving trips from shore, daily boat, zodiac and
liveaboards.



CAMEL DIVE CLUB & HOTEL

Centre of Na'ama Bay,
PO Box 10,
Sharm
El Sheikh,
South Sinai,
Egypt.
Tel: +20 69 3600 700
Fax: +20 69 3600 601
Email: info@cameldive.com
Website: www.cameldive.com
PADI 5★ Gold Palm IDC Centre, BSAC, Acc. AT, LB,
ESI, EA, BH, AYRD, UWP, OW, NDCf, TD, CAOS, EH,
FCF. The Red Seas friendliest diver hotel and dive
centre. Join us for spectacular diving and the best
apres dive in Sharm. Established 1986



CORAL SEA WATERWORLD

PO Box 317,
Sharm El Sheikh, South
Egypt.
Tel: +2 069 3710500
Fax: +2 069 3710511
Email: waterworld@coralsearesorts.com
Website: www.coralsearesorts.com
EH, LB, ESI, EA, AIP, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, CH,
BH, NDCf, CAOS. Nitrox. PADI 5★. When it's time
to plan your next family vacation, choose Coral Sea
Waterworld Resort and experience the newest
water park in Nabq Bay, Sharm El Sheikh.



EAGLE DIVERS

Based in Ocean Club Hotel,
23 City Council Street,
Hadaba,
Sharm el Sheikh
Tel: 002 01200001590
002 01200001591
Email: info@eagle-divers.com
Website: www.eagle-divers.com
Opening Hours: 8.00am - 6.00pm
PADI 5★ resort & TecRec Centre. Nitrox. Air to
220 Bar. EH, LB, ESI, TD, EA, AIP, Acc, FCF, AT,
AYRD, UWP, NDCf, CAOS. Providing first class
personalised service in one of the worlds top
diving destinations. We pride ourselves on
making your Red Sea holiday the best it can be.



OVERSEAS DIVE CENTRES

ELITE DIVING'S DIVERS UNITED

Uni Sharm Hotel,
Sharm Elysees Street, Um El Sid Hill,
Hadaba, Sharm El Sheikh
Tel: 0020 1224 308 780
Email: info@elite-diving.com
Web: www.elite-diving.com
Opening Hours: 8.00am to 19.00pm
Air to 220 Bar. Divers United PADI 5 Resort. Elite Diving. BSAC Diver Training Center. EH, LB, ESI, EA, AIP, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, BH, NDCF, CAOS. NITROX, ATOL Bonded through UK Tour operator. British Owner managers, offering Daily Boat Diving on some of the best reefs in the world, House reef, PADI & BSAC courses, Liveboards, Special excursions.



ILIOS DIVE CLUB

Steigenberger Al Dau Resort,
Hurgada,
Red Sea, Egypt
Tel: 0020 65 346 5442
Email: info@iliostivedclub.com
Website: www.iliostivedclub.com
Opening Hours: 8am - 5pm
Air to 200 Bar. Nitrox, Padi Course up to Divemaster, Handicapped diving, Snorkeling. EH, ESI, EA, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, BH, NDCF, CAOS. Ilios Dive Club - One with the Red Sea. The Steigenberger Al Dau Resort, Red Sea, Hurgada is the home of Ilios Dive Club. On an area of 360m² we are offering everything diver, skin diver and those going to be need to have a perfect holiday. Due to over 20 years of experience in the professional management of a dive centre we guarantee our guests wonderful dives in the Red Sea.



OCEAN COLLEGE

Hilton Fayrouz Hotel,
Naama Bay,
Sharm El Sheikh
Tel: 0020 127792749
Email: info@ocean-college.com
Website: www.ocean-college.com
Opening Hours: 8am - 6pm.
Air to 300 Bar. PADI 5★ IDC, Nitrox, ATOL Bonded. EH, LB, ESI, TD, EA, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, BH, NDCF, CAOS. Ocean College is one of the premier dive operators in the Red Sea and offers diving services for experienced divers and PADI diver education



RED SEA DIVING COLLEGE

Sultana Building,
Naama Bay,
South Sinai,
Egypt
Tel: 0020 69 3600145
Email: info@redseacollege.com
Website: www.redseacollege.com
Opening hours: 8am - 9pm.
Air to 200 Bar. EH, LB, ESI, TD, EA, ACC, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, BH, NDCF, CAOS. Nitrox, National Geographic. PADI 5★ CDC. Multi Award winning centre offering all courses from entry level to professional. Conducted from a stunning beach-front location, boasting the best facilities in Sharm.



SINAI COLLEGE

Sinai College,
Sharm Inn Amarin,
Sharm El Sheikh,
South Sinai, Egypt
Tel: (+20) 01154055100
Email: info@sinai-college.com
Website: www.sinai-college.com
Opening hours: 7.45am - 6.30pm, 7 days a week. Air to 200 Bar. EH, LB, ESI, EA, ACC, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, NDCF, COAS. Nitrox, PADI Dive Centre. We are an European run and managed dive center based in Sharm El Sheikh with a friendly and professional atmosphere. We provide daily diving, mini safaris and liveboards.



SINAI DIVERS

Ghazala Hotel,
Sharm El Sheikh,
South Sinai,
Tel: 00 20 069 3600 697
Fax: 00 20 069 3600 158
Email: info@sinaidivers.com
Website: www.sinaidivers.com
Opening Hours: 08:00 - 20:00 summer/
08:00 - 18:30 winter. Air to 200 bar. EH, LB, ESI, TD, EA, Acc, AYRD, UWP, BH, NDCF, FCF, CAOS, AT. Free Nitrox for Nitrox certified divers, NG. PADI 5 Gold Palm Resort. SSI, CMAS (Barakuda) CDC & TDI (Dahab). Easy house reef in the centre Naama Bay, safari boats, north & south. Full tec centre in Dahab, Resort & dive centre in Marsa Alam & Taba.



FUERTEVENTURA

DEEP BLUE DIVING S.L

Barcelo el Castillo,
Caleta de Fuste,
Fuerteventura, 35610
Tel: +34 606 275 468 or
+34 928 163 172
Email: info@deep-blue-diving.com
Website: www.deep-blue-diving.com
Facebook: Deep.Blue.Diving.Fuerteventura
Opening Hours: All year 9am-5pm
Air to 200. PADI 5★ GOLD PALM IDC CENTRE & IE LOCATION. EH, ESI, AIP, ACC, FCF, AYRD, UWP, NDCF, CAOS. WIFI, Equipment Washing and Storage Rooms. Discover Scuba to Instructor. All year round, water front location, small groups, 20-25m visibility. Exclusive dive sites, after dive sector.



GREECE

CRETE UNDERWATER CENTER

Mirabello Beach Hotel, Agios Nikolaos
72100 Crete, Greece. PO Box 100
Tel/Fax: 00 30 284 1022 406
Mobile: 0030 6945 2444 34 /
0030 6944 1268 46
Email: info@creteunderwatercenter.com
Website: www.creteunderwatercenter.com
PADI Resort D.C., Day Boats/ Servicing/
Accommodation/Technical/ IANTD/ PADI/BSAC
ResortCenter/Air /Nitrox/ Trimix/ KitonSale. Based within a hotel complex directly on the beach, we provide a great variety of diving services for Beginners through to Advanced and Technical Divers. As a well equipped resort and diving centre, we tailor packages to suit your individual or group needs.



NAVY'S WATERWORLD

Kamari Beach,
Santorini
Tel/Fax: 0030 22860 28190
Email: info@navyswaterworld.gr
Website: www.navyswaterworld.gr
Opening Hours: 8.00 - 22.00
Air to 200 Bar. EH, ESI, TD, EA, AIP, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, BH, NDCF, CAOS. Nitrox. PADI 5★ IDC Dive Center. Daily 2 tank trips around the volcanic shoreline of Santorini. Dive in the marine protected area, and enjoy the caves, wrecks, wall diving, reefs and more.



NERO-SPORT DIVING CENTER

Limni Keriou,
Zakynthos/ GR-29092
Tel: 0030 26950 28481
0030 698 5666645
0030 26950 49125
Email: info-diving@nero-sport.de
Website: www.nero-sport.com
Opening Hours: 9.00 - 18.00
Air to 200 Bar. PADI DIVE CENTRE, IAC 5★ EH, ESI, Acc, AT, FCF, AYRD, UWP, NDCF, CAOS. Free childcare. 2-5 trips a day. Day trips. Night diving. Own accommodation. Snack bar. Great family offers. Special group offers. Diving all year round.



HONDURAS

UTILA DIVE CENTRE/MANGO INN

Utila,
Bay Islands,
Honduras
Tel/Fax: (504) 24253327
Email: info@utiladivecentre.com
Website: www.utiladivecentre.com
www.goprotilla.com
Opening Hours: 7am to 7pm
Air to 220 Bar. PADI Career Development Centre and IANTD facility. Nitrox, Trimix, Rebreather friendly, National Geographic Facility. EH, ESI, TD, EA, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, CAOS. PADI certification courses from beginner to Instructor (monthly PADI IDC's) with diving packages and accommodation. The island of Utila offers spectacular Caribbean diving and Whale sharks.



IBIZA

PUNTA DIVE

Cala Martina,
Es Cana,
Santa Eulalia,
Ibiza,
Spain.
Tel: (0034) 971 33 67 26
(0034) 971 31 94 13
Email: info@puntadive.com
Website: www.puntadive.com
Opening Hours: 9:00 - 19:00.
Air to 225 Bar. PADI 5★ IDC. EH-ESI-EA-FCF-AT-UWP-CH-BH-NDCF-CAOS. 3 centres on Ibiza. Dive don Pedro, sunken fish farm, the cathedral etc. 2 fast RIB's. Group and club offers available. Fun, friendly and professional.



INDONESIA

AQUAMARINE DIVING - BALI

Jalan Petitenget 2A,
Kuta-Legian-Seminyak,
Bali 80361, Indonesia.
Tel: +62 361 4738 020
Fax: +62 361 4738 021
Email: info@aquamarinediving.com
Website: www.aquamarinediving.com
Opening Hours: 8:00-18:00
Air to 200 Bar. PADI 5★ Gold Palm Resort 6344. EH, Nitrox, ESI, EA, CAOS, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, CH, BH, NDCF. Bali's only British owner-operated dive company. Only offers Bali's better dive locations (wrecks, drifts, Mantas, shore, deep). Daily Trips and Customised Dived Packages. UWP Specialists.



BLUE MARLIN DIVE

Gili Trawangan, Gili Meno,
Gili Air, Senggigi,
Lombok,
Indonesia.
Tel: ++62 (0) 370 632424
Fax: ++62 (0) 370 642286
Email: info@bluemarindive.com
Website: www.bluemarindive.com
PADI 5★ Premier IDC Centre. Acc., AT, LB, ESI, EA, BH, AYRD, UWP, OW, NDCF, TD, EH, CH, AIP, CAOS, FCF. The Gili Islands most professional & friendly 5★ IDC Centre (established 16 years). Spectacular world class ocean diving. Ocean front restaurant, bar, night club & freshwater pool. Full retail dive shop on site. DM internship programmes. Full technical diving facility offering TDI & IANTD. Blue Marlin has it's own luxury liveboard offering trips throughout the Indonesian Archipelago. Packages available.



TWO FISH DIVERS

One operator/three tropical-island resorts:
Bunaken Island,
North Sualwesi
Lembah Straits,
North Sualwesi
Lembongan Island,
Bali
Tel: 0062-811-432-805
Email: info@twofishdivers.com
Website: www.twofishdivers.com
Air to 200 bar. PADI 5★ IDC. Nitrox, EH, ESI, TD, EA, AIP, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, NDCF, CAOS. Two Fish Divers is owned and run by Tina and Nigel from UK. Each of their three tropical-island resorts offer a friendly and relaxed atmosphere with some of the best diving in Indonesia:
1) Bunaken Island, North Sulawesi - the award-winning reefs of Bunaken Marine Park.
2) Lembah Straits, North Sulawesi - the muck-diving capital of the world.
3) Lembongan Island, Bali - home of the mola-mola and manta's of Bali.
All dive resorts are PADI 5★, have european management, max 24 divers, small dive groups, and a friendly and personal service. Organise a trip to one of more of these resorts, or book an Indo Dive Safari with all three resorts!



LANZAROTE

THE DIVE SHOP LANZAROTE

CC Matagorda,
Locale 44
Puerto del Carmen
Lanzarote
Tel: (+34)928 512-865
Mobile: 652-013-929
Email: info@theshoplanzarote.com
Website: www.theshoplanzarote.com
Opening Hours: Monday to Saturday 9:00 to 6:00
Sunday on request EH, ESI, TD, FCF, AYRD, UWP, BD, NDCF, CAO. Nitrox. PADI 5★ Resort



MANTA DIVING LANZAROTE

Juan Carlos 1,
No.6, Local 5,
Puerto del Carmen
Tel: (0034) 928 516815
Mobile: (0034) 649 121142
Email: info@manta-diving-lanzarote.com
manta-diving-lanzarote-val@hotmail.com
Skype: manta-dive-centre
Website: www.manta-diving-lanzarote.com
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8.30-5.30pm all year round.
Air to 200 Bar. PADI IRRA RESORT CENTRE, BSAC RESORT CENTRE. OSS, ACC, AT, AYRD, BH, CAOS, CH, NDCF, EA, EH, UWP, ESI, FCF. PADI. Courses & Specialties, Discover Scuba & Snorkelling. Fully equipped, spacious centre, 150mtrs from best sites in Lanzarote. Group Rates All level of divers welcome. NITROX.



SAFARI DIVING LANZAROTE

Playa de la Barrilla 4, Playa Chica Puerto Del Carmen,
Tel: 0034 928511992 or
0034 646752512
Email: enquiry@safaridiving.com
Website: www.safaridiving.com
PADI, PADI 5★ Centre, BSAC, PADI Premier Centre, NAUI, SAA, Acc, AT, LB, ESI, EAs, BH, AYRD, UWP, OWs, NDCF, ATOL, TD, CAOS, EH, CH, AIP, FCF. SSI & RYA. We are a PADI dive centre. BSAC Premier Centre and Seamanship Centre. SSI Diver Training Centre. British owned, beach based diving centre, established for over 18 years. Spectacular Ocean diving all year round which include reefs, drop offs, wrecks etc to suit all levels of diver and the complete beginner! Special offers available for dive packages for shore, night and boat dives.



MALTA

DIVE DEEP BLUE MALTA

9/11 Annanija Street,
Bugibba, St Pauls Bay,
Malta SPB 1320
Tel: 00 356 21 583946
Mob: 00 356 99 868957
Email: dive@divedeepblue.com
Website: www.divedeepblue.com



Opening Hours: 8am till 6pm.
PADI 5★ IDC. EH, ESI, TD, EA, AIP, ACC, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, CH, BH, NDCF, CAOS, Nitrox / Trimix. Facilities include: Dive Shop, Private parking, swimming pool, sun deck, gas filling/blending station, equipment rental/sales, drying and storage areas, toilets/ showers, A/C class rooms, technical facility, CCR support.



DIVESHACK SCUBA SCHOOL

14a, Qui Si Sana, Seafront, Sliema,
SLM3111, Malta
Tel: 00 356 2133 8558
00 356 9999 3483
Email: info@divemalta.com
Website: www.divemalta.com
Opening Hours: 7 Days a week from
08.00 till 18.00 (17.00 in winter).
PADI 5★ IDC, National Geographic and TecRec
Facility. Seafront Location. Resident Course
Director. All PADI Courses Taught. Rebreather
Friendly. Escorted Dives from Shore/Boat round
Malta, Gozo and Comino. Fully Stocked Shop.
Operating from Comino May to Oct. Nitrox, Trimix,
National Geographic. Speciality side mount and
Tec side mount. Acc, AIP, AT, AYRD, BH, BS, CAOS,
CH, EA, EH, ESI, FCF, NDCF, OSS + OWS, OST, TD,
UWP,



DIVEWISE

Westin Dragonara Resort, Malta
Tel: (+356) 21 356 441
Email: info@divewise.com.mt
Website: www.divewise.com.mt
Opening Hours: 7 days a week
from 9am till finish.
Air to 300 Bar. PADI 5★ CDC Centre. Nitrox,
Trimix, Boat Diving, Day trips. EH, ESI, TD, EA, ACC,
FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, CH, BH, NDCF, CAOS
PADI's No 1 centre in Malta offering all courses but
specialising in Technical diving & Instructor level.



GOZO AQUA SPORTS

GOZO AQUA SPORTS,
Rubat Road, Marsalforn, Gozo,
Malta, MFN 9014
Tel: 0035621563037
Email: dive@gozoaquaasports.com
Website: www.gozoaquaasports.com
Opening Hours: 7 Days a week 08:00 – 18:00.
Air to 300 Bar. PADI 5★ IDC - DSAT TECREC
centre & BSAC Resort, ESI, TD, Acc, AT, AYRD, UWP,
CH, BH, NDCF, CAOS, Nitrox and Trimix Available,
Technical & Rebreather Diver Support. Free WI-FI,
Free Tea/Coffee/Water, Rinsing/Drying/Storage
facilities, Wreck, Boat, Cavern, Digital Photography,
Drysuit, Enriched Air, Equipment Specialist,
Multilevel, Naturalist, Navigation, Night, PPB,
Oxygen Provider, Search & Recovery, Project
AWARE Fish ID Specialities.



PARADISE DIVING

Paradise Bay Resort Hotel,
Cirkewwa,
Mellieha, Malta
Tel: 00356 21574116 /
00356 21524363,
00356 99491877
Email: sales@paradisediving.com
Website: www.paradisediving.com
Opening Hours: 9.00-17.00.
Air to 300 Bar. PADI 5★ RESORT. EH, ESI, EA, ACC,
FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, CH, BH, NDCF, CAOS, Nitrox.
Three summer boat dives daily, Malta, Gozo,
Comino. No boat surcharge! Private beach
location, Cirkewwa. PADI courses. Free group
places. Free transport, Mellieha, Bugibba, Qawra.



SEA SHELL DIVE COVE

Marfa Road, Mellieha, Malta
Tel: +356/21522595 /
+ 356/21521062
Fax: +356 2152 1062
Email: info@seashell-divecove.com
Website: www.seashell-divecove.com
EH, Nitrox, ESI, TD, CAOS, AIP, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD,
UWP, CH, BH, NDCF. Family run dive centre.
Technical diving & courses. Escorted dives from
shore/boat Malta, Gozo, Comino. Wreck dive
specialist. Latest equipment for hire & for sale.



MEXICO

SCUBA CLUB COZUMEL

Av R Melgar Prol 5 Km 1.5,
Cozumel, Q. Roo Mexico 77600
Tel: 52+987-872-1133
US# 727-230-9613
Fax: 727-388-3638
Email: scubacozumel@cozumel.net
Website: www.scubacozumel.net
Opening Hours: 24/7/365.
Acc, ESI, EH, AYRD, UWP, BH, FCF, CAOS. PADI
5★ Training center and Dive Resort offering dive
packages including room, meals and diving. Full
service 5 star training facility offering all levels of
instruction and daily dive trips.



PHILIPPINES

THRESHER SHARK DIVERS

Malaapscua Island,
Cebu 6013 Philippines
Cell: +63 917 795 9433
Landline: +63 32 406 6414
Fax: +63324370985
Email: dive@thresherdivers.com
Web: www.malapascua-diving.com
Opening Hours: 5am-8pm.
Air to 200 bar. EH, LB, ESI, TD, EA, AIP, ACC, FCF,
AT, AYRD, UWP, CH, BH, NDCF, CAOS. Nitrox,
Trimix. PADI 5★ IDC, IANTD, TDI, BSAC. Daily
thresher shark dives (as seen on Monty Halls),
mantas, wrecks, reefs, macro, muck diving, great walls
dives. British owned and run, PADI courses available.



PORTUGAL

INDIGO DIVERS

Rua do Mercado Lote, M Loja A, Areias de
São, João, Albufeira - 8200-269, Portugal.
Tel/Shop: 00351 289 587013
Mobile: 00 351 913 999 913
Fax: 00351 289 587 013
Email: info@indigo-divers.pt
Web: www.indigo-divers.pt
Opening Hours: 8:30 - 18:00
later if night dives.
EH, ESI, EA, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, NDCF, CAOS.
We personalise our dives for you! Experienced
professional, friendly instructors. All courses to
instructor level. Plus specialities. Guided dives from
boat, beach. New wreck dives! ■



SPAIN

S'ALGAR DIVING MENORCA

Paseo Martimo, S/N Salgar, San Luis,
Menorca,
Tel: +34 971 15 06 01
Mobile: +34 605 054 607
Email: info@salgardiving.com
FB: facebook.com/menorcasalgardiving
Open: May – October
PADI 5★ RESORT, BSAC RESORT, IEH, ESI, FCF, UWP,
CH, BH, NDCF, CAOS. NITROX for courses and special
dives. DIVING, COURSES, TRY-DIVES, SNORKELLING,
BOATEXCURSIONS etc. Reefs, Caverns, Caves. Divesites
for Beginners and Pro's alike. COMFORTABLE BOAT,
PROFESSIONAL STAFF and the BEST LOCATION IN
MENORCA! Perfect for FAMILIES. Specials incl.
ACCOMMODATION for CLUBS and GROUPS of 4+ pax.
Check out our FACEBOOK site for much more
information and photos. ■ ■ ■



THAILAND

SCUBA CAT DIVING

Main shop: 78/19 Thaweewong Road,
Patong Beach, Phuket Thailand, 83150
Opening hours: 8.30 - 9.00pm
7 days a week
Second shop: 30/64 Moo.1 Saiyuan Road,
Rawai Phuket Thailand 83130
Opening hours 11.00-7.00pm 7 days a week
Tel: 00 66 76 293 120/1 Fax: 00 76 293 122
Email: info@scubacat.com
Web: www.scubacat.com or www.scubacat-idc.com
PADI 5★ CDC. EH, Nitrox, LB, ESI, TD, EA, CAOS,
FCF, AYRD, UWP, NDCF. At Scuba Cat we pride
ourselves on the wide range of services and
facilities we have on offer including Liveaboards,
Daytrips, Half day trips, Tech diving, Handicapped
Diving, Environmental and all PADI Courses.
www.youtube.com/user/ScubaCat2007



SEA BEES DIVING

1/3 MOO 9, VISET Road, CHALONG,
PHUKET 83130. THAILAND
Tel: +66 (0)76 381 765
+ 66 (0)76 381 943
Fax: +66 (0)76 280 476
Email: info@sea-bees.diving.com
Website: www.sea-bees.com
Opening Hours: 7.30am to 9pm every day
Air to 200 bar. EH, LB, ESI, TD, EA, AIP, Acc, FCF, AT,
AYRD, UWP, CH, BH, NDCF, CAOS, Nitrox, National
Geographic, SSI Diamond Instructor Training
Centre. Located in Phuket, Khao Lak, Koh Phi Phi
& Pak Meng - with our fleet of daytrip and liveboard
vessels, we are 'Adventure In Good Hands' ■



SIMILAN DIVING SAFARIS Co LTD

13/19 Moo 7 Kukkak, Khaolak, Takuapa,
Phang-Nga 82190, Thailand
Tel: 076 485 470
Fax: 076 485 471
Email: info@similan-diving-safaris.com
Website: www.similan-diving-safaris.com
www.burma-diving-safaris.com
Opening Hours: 9am to 9pm.
Air to 200 bar. EH, LB, ESI, EA, AIP, ACC, FCF, ATF,
UWP, BH, NDCF, CAOS. PADI 5 Star Dive Centre.
Liveboard specialist, PADI courses, Nitrox aboard
our boat. Eco-friendly toiletries. Similan, Surin,
Islands. Myanmar (Burma). Mergui Archipelago.
Day trips, diving, snorkelling, European, established
for 15 years. ■



TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

DIVE PROVO

Ports of Call, Providenciales,
Turks and Caicos Islands
Tel: 001 649 946 5040 (shop)
Fax: 001 649 946 5936
Email: diving@diveprovo.com
Website: www.diveprovo.com
Hours: Hours 8am-5pm daily. Air to 200 Bar. EST.
Hotel/dive packages to suit every taste. PADI 5★
Resort, SSI Resort. OSS, EH, ESI, EA, AIP, Acc, FCF,
AT, AYRD, UWP, BH, NDCF, CAOS. Nitrox 32%.
Daily 2 tank dives to all areas around Provo; West
Caicos, French Cay, N.W. Point, Grace Bay, Pine Cay.
Air, Nitrox, instruction and dedicated snorkel trips.
British owners Alan and Clare Jardine. 1990 - 2010:
Celebrating 20 years of diving as it should be!



LOOKING
TO ADVERTISE
YOUR DIVE
CENTRE?

T. +44 (0) 118 974 2502
E. sam.wren@sportdiver.co.uk



	Pax	26	Elec	240V
	Cab	11	Cour	Y
	EnS	Y	A/C	Y
	Lth	37m	Ntx	Y
	Hull	steel	CCR	Y

Australia - Cairns

Spirit of Freedom
www.spiritoffreedom.com.au



	Pax	29	Elec	240V
	Cab	15	Cour	Y
	EnS	Y	A/C	Y
	Lth	30m	Ntx	Y
	Hull	Alum	CCR	Y

Australia, Cairns, Queensland

Spoilsport
www.mikeball.com



	Pax	18	Elec	240V
	Cab	9	Cour	Y
	EnS	Y	A/C	Y
	Lth	60m	Ntx	Y
	Hull	wood	CCR	N

Bali

MSV WAOW
www.waowcharters.com



	Pax	16	Elec	220V
	Cab	8	Cour	Y
	EnS	Y	A/C	Y
	Lth	29m	Ntx	Y
	Hull	wood	CCR	N

Egypt, Sharm El Sheikh

VIP One
www.vipone.com



	Pax	20	Elec	240/110V
	Cab	10	Cour	Y
	EnS	Y	A/C	Y
	Lth	27m	Ntx	Y
	Hull	wood	CCR	N

Egypt

South Moon
www.seaqueen.com



	Pax	16	Elec	110/220V
	Cab	8	Cour	Y
	EnS	Y	A/C	Y
	Lth	33m	Ntx	Y
	Hull	steel	CCR	N

Galapagos

Galapagos Sky
www.galapagosky.com



	Pax	20	Elec	220V
	Cab	10	Cour	Y
	EnS	Y	A/C	Y
	Lth	37.5m	Ntx	Y
	Hull	wood	CCR	N

Hurghada - PORTO GHALIB

Divers Dream Tours
www.diversdreamtours.com



	Pax	18	Elec	240V
	Cab	9	Cour	Y
	EnS	Y	A/C	Y
	Lth	31m	Ntx	Y
	Hull	steel	CCR	Y

Koror, Palau

Ocean Hunter Palau
www.oceanhunter.com



	Pax	23	Elec	240V
	Cab	10	Cour	Y
	EnS	Y	A/C	Y
	Lth	36m	Ntx	Y
	Hull	wood	CCR	Y

MALDIVES

DUKE OF YORK
www.luxuryyachtmaldives.com



	Pax	14	Elec	Y
	Cab	7	Cour	Y
	EnS	Y	A/C	Y
	Lth	33m	Ntx	Y
	Hull	wood	CCR	Y/N

Maldives

Ocean Divine
www.ocean-divine.com



	Pax	20	Elec	240V
	Cab	8	Cour	Y
	EnS	Y	A/C	Y
	Lth	33m	Ntx	Y
	Hull	wood	CCR	Y

MALDIVES

CONTE MAX
www.luxuryyachtmaldives.com



	Pax	22	Elec	220V
	Cab	10	Cour	Y
	EnS	Y	A/C	Y
	Lth	52m	Ntx	Y
	Hull	steel	CCR	Y

Palau

MV Solitude One
www.solitude-one.com



	Pax	—	Elec	240
	Cab	8	Cour	Y
	EnS	Y	A/C	Y
	Lth	34m	Ntx	Y
	Hull	steel	CCR	Y

Philippines

Cosmix Adventures Incorporated
www.dive-vasco.com

	Pax	32	Elec	240
	Cab	16	Cour	Y
	EnS	Y	A/C	Y
	Lth	49m	Ntx	Y
	Hull	steel	CCR	N

Philippines

Discovery Palawan
www.discoveryfleet.com



	Pax	22	Elec	110/240V
	Cab	12	Cour	Y
	EnS	Y	A/C	Y
	Lth	34m	Ntx	Y
	Hull	Steel	CCR	N

Socorro/Guadalupe

SOLMAR V
www.solmarv.com



LOOKING TO ADVERTISE
YOUR LIVEBOARD?

T. +44 (0) 118 974 2502

DO YOU FANCY
INFORMATIVE
& INTERESTING
DIVE CONTENT
DELIVERED TO
YOUR INBOX
COMPLETELY
FREE?



- EXCLUSIVE SUBSCRIBER CONTENT
- NEWS
- TOP TIPS AND ONLINE FEATURES
- HOLIDAY OFFERS
- AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

Subscribe by visiting
www.sportdiver.co.uk/join
or just snap the QR code



SportDiver
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PADI DIVING SOCIETY

Terms & Conditions: By submitting your email address you are agreeing that Archant, the publisher of Sport Diver EMEA, may send you the Sport Diver newsletter. Your information and data will not be used for any third party mailings.

ReActivate™...



...your certification and jump back in today!

Make sure you're ready to get the most out of your next dive adventure by refreshing your skills before you go.

It's easier than you think!

1...2...**ReActivate**
padi-news.com/ReActivate



CLASSIFIEDS

ACCESSORIES

DIVING LOG BOOKS
Order Online Over 20 variations
All styles

Enjoy PADI
Commercial
BSAC

Hard Back Binders
A5 & A6 sizes
Loose Leaf Packs

Call Us: 0800 542 8181
www.puffinshop.co.uk

com dive-logs

Log Books Binders & Accessories
Log Refill Packs

Don't Play With The Shark

LINDA BSAC
Log Book Stamps

ScubaTags

LASER QUALITY

Fish ID Cards

www.DIVE-LOGS.COM

Diver's Ink
Logbook Stamps

www.divers-ink.co.uk

To advertise
contact
Sam Wren
on
01189 742 502

EQUIPMENT

roho dive

- Servicing on Site
- Wet/Dry Suits
- Regulators
- BCDs
- Cylinders (IDEST)
- Computers
- Watches
- Mail order

01924 444888 dive@roho.co.uk
www.roho.co.uk

REGULATOR SERVICE
To Ensure 100% Working Condition
Regulators Should be Serviced Annually
For Fast, Reliable Turn-Round Times
& Quality Controlled Services
Call us on 0800 542 8181
Completion within 5 days

ALL Major Brands Serviced
Certified Technicians

www.puffin.org.uk

Otter Drysuits For all
your drysuit needs
we stock more than 350 suits
in our large showroom
We Repair All Types Of
Drysuits trade Repairs Taken
OTTER WATER SPORTS
www.drysuits.co.uk
Email sales@drysuits.co.uk
Phone 01274 379480

CLOTHING

LOMO
The UK's best value diving range?

www.LomoWatersport.com

HOLIDAYS OVERSEAS

SAFARI DIVING

- English owned legal dive centre in Puerto del Carmen, Lanzarote, located directly on a family-friendly beach.
- We can offer you the most dive sites with daily boat, shore and night dives – all same price!
- Suitable for beginner and all levels of divers – train your own students or complete courses with us.
- We will not be beaten on legitimate quoted prices.
- We can assist with flights/accommodation, etc.
- Others promise – we deliver!

Escape the cold winter weather and visit our all year round resort!

See us at the LIDS dive show and ask about our great dive show deals.
Also the chance to win a free holiday!

Safari Diving Lanzarote
Phone: (0034) 928 51 19 92
Mobile: (0034) 625 059 713
Email: enquiry@safaridiving.com
Web: www.safaridiving.com

INSURANCE

UNNECESSARILY RISKY
Like a dive without a Dive Master Policy

Insurance policies for:

- Diving Accidents
- Liability
- Travel
- Dive Centres
- Equipment
- Boats

A one stop dive insurance shop
Buy online at www.divemasterinsurance.com
or call us on +44 (0)1702 476902

MEDICAL

Diving Medicals Nottingham

- Sport Diver medicals £50
- HSE commercial diving medicals £110
- Oil and Gas UK Offshore Medicals £100
- HGV/PSV/taxi medicals £50
- Occupational Health Medicals

Discounts for students and large groups
For appointments call 0780 2850 084
email: mclamp@doctors.org.uk

Drs McCann, Roberts and Bettley-Smith
- Poole, Dorset
HSE, Sport & Phone advice
Medicals done promptly at your own convenience
Phone 01202 741345
Email: madeira.medical@dorset.nhs.uk

Diving Medicals in the Midlands HSE / Sport / Advice – Email: doctor@midlandsdivingchamber.co.uk / Tel: 01788 579555

buyamag.co.uk
Great magazines direct to your door

Now you can buy
single issues of
your favourite
magazines
online – go to
www.buyamag.co.uk

subscription
save.co.uk
The lowest prices on
the magazines you love

REPAIRS

Equipment Repairs
Drysuits, Watches, Computers & More
Fast, Reliable Quality Controlled Guaranteed Work
Drysuit Boots, Zips, Cuffs, Necks & Pressure Tests. In House Repairs
ALL Major Brands of Equipment

Fast Service 3-5 day turn round Average
Overnight & Faster Service Available
Phone us for a quote
web - www.puffin.org.uk
email - info@puffin.org.uk
Phone - 0800 542 8181

WET & DRY SUIT REPAIRS
ALL MAKES ALL TYPES
0161 304 8471
9 Waterloo Court, Waterloo Road,
Stalybridge, Cheshire SK15 2AU
www.gybe.co.uk
e-mail: repairs@gybe.co.uk
Tel 0161 304 8471
Gybe

WESTFIELD
SUB AQUA & MARINE INSURANCE SERVICES LTD

www.divinginsuranceuk.com

Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Specialist Sport Diver
Insurance

JEWELLERY



The Reef Jewelry Collections

Capturing the passion we share for the sea and inspired by our encounters with the ocean's most incredible creatures, the Reef Jewelry Collections celebrate these unique moments with a range of timeless pieces. Treasure the memories of our most unforgettable and spine tingling encounters forever at reefjewellery.co.uk

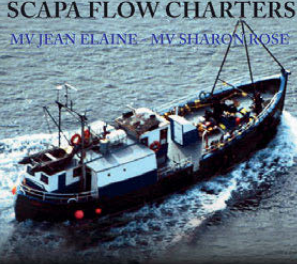
Visit reefjewellery.co.uk



CHARTER BOATS

SCOTLAND

SCAPA FLOW CHARTERS
MV JEAN ELAINE - MV SHARON ROSE



Long established and experienced operator providing diving holidays in Scapa Flow, Orkney and beyond. Air, Nitrox and Trimix onboard. Dayboat or liveboard options. Sea angling trips.

Contact Andy for more information
Tel: 01856 850879 or Mob: 07774 407093
andy@jeanelaine.co.uk
www.jeanelaine.co.uk

SCAPA FLOW 2015
FEW PLACES AVAILABLE FOR 2015.
TAKING BOOKINGS FOR 2016 AND BEYOND



For a great diving package from our 20m hard day boat, 02 clean 15lt tanks, air to 300 bar, minibus, complimentary airport & Stromness ferry pickups. Self-contained accommodation with hot breakfast in central Stromness, all inclusive plus onboard nitrox. All sizes of parties catered for.

Email: leigh@divescapafLOW.co.uk
Tel: 01856 850 055 | www.divescapafLOW.co.uk

DIVE SCAPA FLOW & ORKNEY
ABOARD THE 70ft LIVE-ABOARD M.V. SUNRISE

The M.V. Sunrise is a 70ft live-aboard dive boat, providing high quality diving holidays in Scapa Flow. There is a hydraulic diver lift, making it easy to get back on board. Nitrox is available on board; we can provide any mix you require. Contact us today for availability and to book your holiday with us

Tel: 01856 874425
www.sunrisecharters.co.uk
email: dougie@sunrisecharters.co.uk

URCHIN DIVE CHARTER
OBAN & SOUND OF MULL
Hard Boat Diving

BOOK NOW: 0800 5428181



Warm Saloon
Wet & Dry Storage
Moon Pool Entry

20 years Diving Knowledge
On board Galley
Hot Tea & Snacks

www.puffin.org.uk
Puffin
Diver Friendly
Catamaran

www.mvhalton.co.uk **Scapa Flow Oban Shetland Norway**



01856 851532
bob@mvhalton.co.uk
Halton Charters

NORTH

FARNE ISLANDS DIVING
William Shiel

Farne Island Diving available all year round in our hard boats and Ribs for both groups and individuals. Air Station with air fill collection service (no queuing for air fills).

Tel: 01665 721297 / Mob: 07799 666573
Email: diver@farne-islands.com
www.farne-islands.co.uk | www.farneislandsdiving.co.uk

Quote: "SPORTS DIVER" for offers

WEBSITES



www.lumb-bros-das.co.uk
Quality diving products.

www.otterboxes.co.uk
Rugged waterproof cases for every environment.

www.unidive.co.uk
A quality range of masks, snorkels, fins and knives.

www.tek-tite.co.uk
Torches, strobes, marker lights for diving and outdoor pursuits.



If you wish to place
an advertisement
in our
Classifieds section
please contact

Sam Wren

Telephone:

01189 742 502

Email:

sam.wren@archant.co.uk

buyamag.co.uk
Great magazines direct to your door

Now you can buy
single issues of
your favourite
magazines
online - go to
www.buyamag.co.uk

- Travel Insurance
- Equipment Insurance
- Boat Insurance
- Personal Accident Insurance

Phone 'your insurance buddy' on

01483 237827

The Sub Aqua Association choose
us for our Insurance expertise!





paul ROSE

You know the feeling: Heaving seas, pounding rain, cold and miserable with the only thought being 'just let me get in the water where everything will be fine'. Well it's the same here in the Seychelles outer islands.

The largest raised coral atoll on Earth. Remote. Inhospitable. Spared from human interference. Home to 100,000 giant tortoises and surrounded by pristine reefs.

This is Aldabra! It is truly one of the wonders of the world - we love it and may never leave. It might seem strange, but it was raining so hard that we couldn't dive. With a strong current running we 'drift dive', that is, we go

and countless beautiful reef fishes.

With life this good underwater I absolutely did not want to surface and unsurprisingly this is the way we all feel about Aldabra - we love it and may never leave!

Aldabra is our last stop here on our latest National Geographic Pristine Seas expedition. This has been a brilliant expedition. We started with a week of diving in Mahe where I was especially pleased to see the recovering reefs of Sainte Anne National Marine Park. This was a key part of our Shoals of Capricorn project at the Royal Geographical Society in response to the 1998 coral bleaching events. The reefs were in real trouble at that time, but

good that he had to stop work sometimes and just watch the life.

Our next stop was Astove and it was there that we had our best turtle experiences being lucky enough to be on the right beach at the right time to witness baby turtles hatching and then making their perilous journey across the beach through ranks of crabs and birds. Only a small percentage actually survive the passage to the sea and then they begin 'the lost years' when they roam the Indian Ocean for 13 years before returning to the exact same beach to lay their eggs. To see this at dawn on the beach at Astove is a memorable and moving experience.

"I was delighted to share the same up close and personal grouper experiences as [Cousteau's] men, with the highlight being a large potato cod getting the whole of the top on my head in its mouth"

with the current and the dive boat follows our bubbles. We can do this in almost any conditions. But on our first dive here at Aldabra the high winds and incredible downpours of rain reduced visibility to a just few yards meaning that the boat would be unable to find us. And so resembling half drowned seabirds we just sat on the boat fully geared up staring into a monotone, grey world full of heaving seas, streaked with blowing foam.

At the first hint of improvement we went for it - descending quickly into a warm colourful paradise. The contrast with life on the surface was remarkable. I was immediately joined by a hawksbill turtle who tapped his beak on my mask and then followed me for most of the dive, the bottom cover was close to 100% pristine coral, black tip, nurse and grey reef sharks made investigative close up passes and the reef pulsed with life from lobsters, octopus

because they are protected they have greater resilience and are now beginning to thrive.

We then sailed 1,000km to Assumption Island where our dives followed the fin kicks of Jacques Cousteau and his team as that is where they made the Silent World. I was delighted to share the same up close and personal grouper experiences as his men, with the highlight being a large potato cod getting the whole of the top of my head in his mouth. Assumption was also the place where I inadvertently interrupted two mating Giant Tortoises resulting in me being "chased" in the slowest, but no doubt most determined, race in history.

Cosmoledo was next up and here I joined our botanist, Mike Fay, making transits through almost impenetrable mangrove forests, diving even better reefs and loving it when our chief scientist, Alan, reported the diving to be so

Even though these dives were extraordinary we were concerned that we had seen no sharks. Shark fishing for their fins is big business and so profitable that unregulated boats will take the risk to fish illegally. Unbelievably 100 million sharks a year are killed to supply the voracious appetite for shark fin soup. Thankfully here in the protected waters of Aldabra when we roll in off the boat and the bubbles clear we immediately see that we are not at the top of the food chain!

Paul is the Vice President of the Royal Geographical Society. For 10 years he was the Base Commander of Rothera Research Station in Antarctica and was also the BAS Diving Officer. He presents television and radio programmes for the BBC.
www.paulrose.org

CONQUER NEW TERRITORY



SUUNTO EON STEEL EXPLORE MORE - FULL CUSTOMIZATION

Suunto introduces its next generation dive computer. The intuitive Suunto EON Steel combines advanced technology with customizable features and display to show clearly what you need. With heavy duty housing, a stainless steel bezel, and user updatable software, Suunto EON Steel will dive with you for years to come.

www.suunto.com


SUUNTO



For more information call 01420 587272
Discover Moves at www.movescount.com
Follow us on  @SuuntoDivingUK and  at www.facebook.com/SuuntoDivingUK

SCUBAPRO



THE ONLY THING YOU'LL
FEEL IS INSPIRED.



EXCLUSIVE TRUFIT TECHNOLOGY

Discover a new perspective on mask comfort with the Synergy series, featuring new-generation Trufit technology. This revolutionary skirt design forms a watertight seal on virtually any face, allowing divers to have a secure mask without sacrificing comfort. Trufit skirts are designed with the highest quality silicone and are identifiable by their unique ribbing texture.

Choose your favorite colour at:

[SCUBAPRO.COM](https://www.scubapro.com)

SYNERGY 2 + SYNERGY TWIN SERIES

